Daily Report

Latin America

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Reportage on Central American Presidents Meeting

Exiled Cubans Ask Mediation

PA1312184191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1514 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—A delegation of exiled Cuban political opposition leaders has asked the Central American presidents to open a "direct dialogue" with Fidel Castro's government without including "direct U.S. participation."

The delegation, which arrived in Tegucigalpa from Miami, was led by Jose Ignacio Rasco, president of the Christian Democratic Party, and included Felicito Rodriguez of the Cuban Liberal Union and Ricardo Puerta of the Cuban Liberal Social Board.

Puerta told ACAN-EFE that "the mediation we are seeking is a Latin American option that rules out any threat of direct military intervention by Washington."

"We are looking for hemispheric and European solidarity to obtain a political opening in Cuba that would allow dissident groups to be politically organized and to express their own ideas," Puerta said.

Rasco noted that violence should not be used to produce political changes in Cuba. He suggested instead a "free multiparty electoral process that would return sovereignty to the people."

The Cuban delegation also asked the presidents to mediate the release of Maria Elena Cruz Varela, president of the Alternative Criteria, who is currently in prison.

'Tegucigalpa Commitment' Signed

PA1412014491 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2039 GMT 13 Dec 91

["Text" of "Tegucigalpa Commitment" signed by the Central American presidents and the prime minister of Belize at the 11th presidential summit at the Honduras Maya Hotel in Tegucigalpa on 13 December]

[Text] We:

The presidents of the Central American Republics and the Prime Minister of Belize, fraternally united in our ideals of social responsibility, unity, and integration, reaffirm our duty to serve and further the well-being of all Central Americans. Thus:

We commit ourselves to doing all we can to promote an authentic human development process in our region and to place a special emphasis on infants and youths.

Our efforts to promote human development are aimed at reaffirming the living conditions of people as social, economic, and political beings. This will be done by directing our actions at core matters such as: creating jobs and income, food and nutrition, quality environment, access to basic health services, sanitation, housing, education, and the promotion and organization of the community.

We all believe economic growth is necessary to improve the social conditions of the countries in the region. We reaffirm our belief that development promotes economic growth, which benefits people and improves their living conditions.

We believe infants, youths, and women should be given special attention and that the basic needs of the poorest groups should be covered. Thus, we have geared our strategies and actions to this goal.

We proclaimed our beliefs when we signed the "World Declaration on the Survival, Protection, and Development of Children," which is included in the "World Health Strategy for All."

We plan to confront our economic and social problems with renewed efforts. Thus, we have made a joint commitment to implement, with our people, the objectives and goals of the National Action Programs, which are to be prepared in each country.

The National Action Programs will establish political priorities; set concrete goals, which are quantifiable in terms of goods and services; assign resources; and establish compliance deadlines. The financial requirements which cannot be covered internally by the individual nations are to be noted in the programs.

The National Action Programs will support feasible and productive social programs. Thus, we call on the private sector to participate and generate jobs and motivate the poorer people to further their own economic and productive development. Poverty must definitely be defeated and this must be done with decent and productive work, and better qualified and remunerated labor.

The preparation of these programs has led to a dialogue that has enabled us to integrate actions and reach agreements on matters dealing with the well-being of our societies, propose solutions regarding our social needs, and to translate this into economic policies.

The political and technical program that will be prepared in every country will be outlined in the Regional Human Development Program. The latter is to be prepared based on the National Action Programs that have been presented and which must be implemented by March 1992.

We agree to promote the Central American economic integration process, within the current globalization of the economy perspective, and to include the region's concern for social development in this process. To attain this goal, it is necessary to organize and begin operating the Central American Human Development Council. This council is to be formed by the ministers responsible for preparing and implementing social programs and the

ministers responsible for financial and economic policies. We will continue to strengthen the current integrated sectorial regional structures that will receive the support of the Central American Human Development Council.

In this regard, the governments and the regional organizations in charge of human development coordination will give top priority treatment to the appropriate use of available resources. We have mobilized these resources at a great effort, as well as to the acquisition of foreign assistance necessary to achieve the goals established in the present commitment. The Central American Bank of Economic Integration (BCIE) will have an active role in achieving this goal.

This commitment constitutes a genuine expression of a national and regional commitment to achieve firm and lasting improvement in the living conditions of millions of people, whose existence and potential run the serious risk of being lost. We have considered the statements, research, and recommendations of our ministers, first ladies, legislative congresses and assemblies, and supreme courts of the region.

We recognize the support by the international technical cooperation agencies, especially the United Nations Development Program [UNDP] and UNICEF, which have so constructively contributed to this Central American effort. We invite them to continue working with us in the implementation, follow-up, and evaluation of the process.

We reiterate our decision to continue to improve these national and regional commitments, open to the participation of civilian society through all the economic institutions and organizations, especially private enterprise, as well as nongovernmental development organizations, churches, cultural groups, community groups, and labor organizations. We also call for the active participation of all those who are directly benefited by the results of these efforts.

To consolidate this commitment with the participation of the younger generation, we call upon Central American political parties and organizations to assume these commitments and goals, thereby guaranteeing our people the continuity of efforts to accomplish these goals and thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace, democracy, and human development in the region.

Based on this commitment and on the resources of our countries, we make a call to the international community so that, as a concrete expression of international solidarity, it can provide the necessary cooperation so we can achieve our objectives.

Efforts already made have merged with a growing social participation, the accumulated results will be a better quality of life.

We, with this Tegucigalpa Commitment, are strengthening a process full of hope, the focus of which is human development, which opens up new opportunities for the children, the youth and the woman of Central America.

[Issued] Tegucigalpa, Republic of Honduras,
12 December 1991
[Signed] Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, president of Costa Rica
Alfredo Cristiani Burkard, president of El Salvador
Jorge Serrano Elias, president of Guatemala
Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero, president of Honduras
Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of Nicaragua
Guillermo Endara Galimany, president of Panama
Invited observer:
George Price (prime minister of Belize)
Witnesses of Honor:
Joao Clemente Baena Soares, OAS secretary general
William Draper, UNDP administator
James P. Grant, executive director of UNICEF
Nafis Sadik, executive director of UN Population Fund
Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, regional director of the Pan-American Health Organization
Reiner Steckhan, president of the World Bank
Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank

Presidents Hold News Conference

PA1512202291

[Editorial Report] Tegucigalpa Radio and Television Networks in Spanish from 2246 GMT to 2317 GMT on 13 December carries a live news conference by the Central American presidents with local and foreign reporters at the Maya Hotel in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The news conference follows the closing ceremony of the 11th summit of Central American presidents.

Reporter Javier Gabino Villalobos of Radio America asks Nicaraguan President Violeta de Chamorro why Nicaragua has not withdrawn its lawsuit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice, even though an agreement on this had been reached. President Chamorro replies: "The problem we have with Honduras lies with the Nicaraguan National Assembly. If it were in my hands, the problem would have been solved a long time ago, as it was a commitment."

Regarding the Honduran initiative on the creation of a Central American Community based on a document reforming the Organization of Central American States, ODECA, reporter Luis Alonso Maradiaga of LA TRIBUNA asks "What type of integration, legally speaking, will be conducted in Central America?" Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano replies: "We met with the Honduran and Costa Rican presidents and discussed the possibility of reactivating ODECA, in view of the fact that there is already a treaty, which was duly ratified by the respective parliaments and which provides a good framework to initiate the integration process." He adds: "We must remember that Central American integration had been paralyzed for 20 years. Therefore, its reactivation is not an easy task." He says: "Today we signed a

protocol modifying the ODECA treaty and creating the Central American Integration System." He notes: "The step we have taken today is very important, perhaps the most important step. The Tegucigalpa Declaration, as we agreed to name it, will serve as a point of reference for the rebirth of coordination and integration in Central America."

Mauricio Flores of TIEMPO mentions the fact that during the summit, international organizations and some area presidents stressed the need to reduce military expenses. He asks why some governments are reluctant to accept that demand. Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas replies that "Central American presidents are aware that peace as a main objective has not been totally achieved; each one of our countries has its own characteristics which determine the conduct of its society. We are aware that peace first must be attained in Guatemala and El Salvador. As long as peace is not attained in those two nations, it will be very difficult to carry out plans aimed at substantially reducing military forces in those countries. However, the presidents have expressed their willingness, which has been clearly stated in agreements such as the El Salvador Agreement, in the sense that once peace is achieved, the armed forces will be reduced by 50 percent." He adds: "As a region we cannot call for the reduction of military forces in a democratic society with elected, legitimate, and legal governments, while other illegitimate and illegal sectors that do not contribute to the integration of the democratic society are still up in arms."

Guatemalan President Serrano adds: "As President Callejas' statement could be misinterpreted in the sense that there is an agreement to reduce military forces by 50 percent, I want to clarify that in the case of Guatemala we feel that our Army is undersized; it is a small army. Guatemala has 10 million inhabitants, four borders, an internal conflict that has already lasted 30 years, and an impressive increase in drug trafficking activities. We will maintain the size of our army in accordance with our own interests."

Roberto Hugo Presa of the Salvadoran Radio Cadena Cuscatlan Salvador asks the presidents if during a recent tour of the area by leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, they have seen a willingness on the part of the FMLN to disarm and demobilize. Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani replies: "Presidential summits are held within the framework of the Esquipulas II Agreements. The disarmament and demobilization of all irregular armed groups was requested three or four years ago. You asked what would happen if the FMLN does not agree to disarm and demobilize. I believe that a peace agreement would be more difficult in El Salvador, because we cannot accept them as a political group with the same rights as the rest of political parties while they are still armed. It is not democratic for political groups to be armed groups."

Asked if international financial organizations will be asked to be more flexible on their demands on economic measures in view of the difficult economic situation in Central America, Honduran President Callejas refers to a news conference given by Enrique Iglesias, president of the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB. He recalls that Iglesias expressed optimism over the economic situation in the area, based on the steps that governments have taken to transform Central America and eradicate poverty from the area.

Southern Cone Interior Ministers Meet in Chile

PY1312202291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Relay by Pablo de la Vega from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] Interior Ministry Under Secretary Belisario Velasco has disclosed information about the meeting currently being held at La Moneda Palace. The meeting, which is being attended by the interior ministers of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Chile, is designed to discuss the problem of migration and the means to improve cooperation in the fight against crimes, terrorism, and drug trafficking.

[Begin Velasco recording] The purpose of this meeting is for countries that share common problems, such as Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Chile, to discuss problems related to migration, drug trafficking, common crime, and terrorism. [end recording]

Velasco also said that one of the main subjects to be discussed is the problem of migration due to the impact it has from a tourism and financial point of view.

When asked about the request for resident status filed by Croatian citizens, Velasco said that the government is willing to favorably honor this request.

Ministers Sign Declaration

PY1412211191 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1721 GMT 14 Dec 91

[By "special" correspondent Monica Ieracitano]

[Text] Santiago, 14 Dec (TELAM)—The interior ministers of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay have signed a joint declaration endorsing "more fluid communication and control systems" to combat "criminality, terrorism, and drug trafficking."

The interior ministers of Chile, Krauss Rusque; of Argentina, Jose Luis Manzano; of Paraguay, Orlando Machuca Vargas; and of Uruguay, Carlos Moreira; met yesterday and today in this capital to coordinate joint regional security measures.

Following two days of meetings, with the presence of the police chiefs of the four countries, the ministers signed a document upholding "reciprocal actions to solve irregular migration situations."

They also upheld adopting "compatible identification document systems and the facilitation of border traffic" as well as "swift and expeditious procedures at the borders combined with police controls to prevent drug trafficking" in the region during the tourism season.

The ministers considered changes in the laws of the four countries to include "common legal descriptions" for such crimes as drug trafficking, terrorism, and organized crime.

The ministers, who decided to hold periodical meetings to discuss these problems, will meet in Argentina in March 1992.

Following the signing of the declaration, the Chilean interior minister decorated his Argentine and Paraguayan counterparts with the Great Cross of Bernardo O'Higgins.

Cuba

Fidel Castro Attends Hotel Dedication Ceremony

PA1512162491 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and international personalities from the tourism sector have attended the dedication at Varadero Beach of the Melia Varadero and Punta Arenas hotels.

The Melia Varadero Hotel is jointly owned by the Spanish group Sol-Melia and by Cuba's Cubanacan Corporation. The Punta Arenas Hotel is owned by the Cuban National Tourism Institute.

The ceremony began after 1730 [14 December]. Gabriel Escobar, president of the Sol-Melia Group, was there. During the ceremony, the Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises issued national vanguard certificates. Salvador Hernandez spoke on behalf of the construction workers and Fidel Castro made the closing remarks.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] A warm embrace for the construction workers who put their hearts into this effort. Now that we are in the final phase, we can say on behalf of all the Cubans that just as we have come out ahead in this special period, we are prepared to impose our revolutionary optimism over any difficulty, even if the Zero Option is implemented. This is our attitude, Commander. The difficult times we are now enduring serve only to strengthen our will to build the future. At your orders now and always. Socialism or death. Fatherland or death. We will win! [applause]

[Castro] Construction projects geared toward tourism are a priority. Despite the fact that we are going through what we call the special period, we have not failed to contribute our share of human and material resources needed for the construction of these hotels. Without a doubt, the Melia Varadero, the hotel we are dedicating today, is the standard-bearer of this effort.

We Cubans have much to learn as far as good services, hotel organization and administration, cost reduction, and reduction of expenditures on material, are concerned. I believe we would not have been able to learn as much as we have if we had not had the privilege of gaining knowledge from the international experience, from all the experience, of being part of this Spanish hotel chain. [end recording]

Prior to the dedication ceremony, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro toured the grounds of the hotels that were dedicated today. The first hotel he visited was the Punta Arenas Hotel. He also visited the Cuatro Palmas Hotel, which has been under construction for one year and will have 100 rooms. Afterwards he visited the Gaviota Tres Hotel and Varadero Club, which is owned by a mixed enterprise that includes the Jamaican Super Club Corporation. This installation will have 160 rooms. Fidel also visited the Tuxpan Hotel, a Mexican project dedicated a year ago. Fidel closed his tour at the Melia Varadero. There he was accompanied by Spanish businessmen and other guests.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct] These rooms are considered the most comfortable. This was the objective. This is why this hotel is more expensive than the others. It has more parking space, two restaurants, a grill, two shops, and all the hotel services. It also has available raw goods [words indistinct] that...

[Castro, interrupting] The raw goods are frozen.

[First unidentified speaker] Yes, they are frozen and then reheated [words indistinct].

[Second unidentified speaker] In this installation, neither tips nor money circulates. It is as if you were member of a club and owner of all its facilities.

[Castro] What about that swimming pool?

[Third unidentified speaker] [Words indistinct].

[Castro] [Words indistinct]. [end recording]

Discusses Tourism, Blockade

PA1512171491 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has said that 1991 has been a year of very difficult tests and 1992 will probably be the same. However, he added that the government is not twiddling its thumbs and the people's spirit and morale are very high. We are motivated enough to move forward and emerge victorious in our just cause because revolutionaries gain courage during trying times. This was stated by Fidel Castro during a new conference at the Melia-Varadero Hotel, 150 km east of Havana.

The hotel was inaugurated on 14 December at the famous beach resort in Matanzas Province. The five-star 490-room hotel was built in cooperation with the Spanish Sol-Melia Company. The president of the company, Gerardo Garcia, attended the inauguration. The news conference was attended by over 100 journalists, many of them from the autonomous Canary and Balearic Islands. During the news conference, Fidel Castro said that the Cuban state's association with capitalist companies is perfectly compatible with socialist ideology.

He added that the experience gained from the joint exploitation in Varadero of the Sol-Palmeras Hotel, which was inaugurated just over a year ago, shows that there are reciprocal advantages. Both countries will recover their investments in only three-and-a-half years. Cuba will gain experience in the area of tourism and will benefit from market technology, President Castro stated.

Castro pointed out that although the country has other development programs, such as the pharmaceutical and

biotechnology industries, Cuba is not a petroleum-rich country—such as Kuwait and Venezuela—and thus, must promote tourism to overcome the U.S. economic blockade and the impact on the island of the collapse of socialism in Europe. Fidel Castro pointed out that Cuba has a tactic and strategy to defeat the U.S. blockade, but he warned that the struggle will be a lengthy one because the United States disdains international law. We do not want to sacrifice our friends who are under U.S. pressure, but we will continue to bring up the blockade issue at the UN General Assembly, he said. Our first battle is to win the support of the international community, the Cuban president added.

Castro stated that the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba is being increasingly discredited because it cannot be defended on ethical and moral grounds now that the Cold War is over. The Cuban leader criticized the pharisaic nature of U.S. policy, which proclaims human rights, but denies Cuba the possibility of obtaining even an aspirin to mitigate a headache. The United States also holds normal economic relations with the PRC, another socialist country.

During the news conference held on 14 December in the conference room of the new Melia-Varadero Hotel, Fidel Castro underscored the integration process of Latin America and recalled his participation in the first Ibero-American summit in Guadalajara and his meeting in Cozumel with the presidents of the Group of Three made up of Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia.

The Cuban statesman said Latin America will not yield to Yankee pressure against Cuba, which is currently holding relations with most nations in the area and will not be excluded from the regional integration process.

At the news conference, President Fidel Castro reaffirmed that Cuba is the country that has made the most profound changes in the past 30 years, but he clarified that these changes have been made not to introduce capitalism, but to improve socialism.

In response to a question from a correspondent of the Spanish newspaper EL MUNDO, Fidel Castro warned against underestimating the Cubans, because they have great courage and immense moral reserves to tackle current economic problems with hard work and enthusiasm.

Havana Provincial Assembly To Begin 21 Dec

FL1312230391 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2038 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The sixth regular session of the sixth term of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government will begin in the Universal Hall of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in Havana City on 21 December. The issues to be discussed include the relocation of lay judges and other provincial court professionals, as well as the work accomplished by the executive committee since the previous session.

Raul Castro Attends Defense School Ceremony

FL1412135391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committe and Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, has presided over a ceremony of the first graduating class of the School of National Defense, to which he bestowed on the 35th Anniversary Granma Landing Award. The School of National Defense was created over a year ago. It is a research training center that offers postgraduate courses at an advanced level.

The primary objective of the School of National Defense is to contribute to the defense of the country by preparing its students to carry out their responsibilities, which require a basic understanding in political, economic, social, military, and scientific-technical matters.

Prospects for Tobacco Harvest Favorable

FL1312153991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The tobacco harvesters in Consolacion del Sur, Pinar del Rio Province, are continuing preparations for the 1991-1992 harvest season at a good pace. The total area devoted to this crop exceeded 530 caballerias; 527 have been plowed, and by the end of November almost 122 had been planted. This represents approximately 82 percent of the planned total to date. This favorable status is due to the efforts of the tobacco workers during this season. This year, they have expanded the use of animal traction. The close relationship between young agronomists and veteran harvesters has favored the search for alternatives, according to the requirements of time and place. Two thousand urban workers have pledged to work on the properties of small farmers and the state when the harvest is at its peak. The average annual production in Consolacion del Sur is 120,000 quintals of tobacco.

Measures To Increase Cigarette Production

FL1312154191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Political work, [words indistinct] and systematic inspections are among the factors that are beginning to bring results in the recovery of cigarette production, which has been gradually increasing during the last quarter. Disciplinary measures have removed those who were damaging the traditions of cigarette production. Along with these measures, work is being done to implement the worker suitability plan for the sector. In the new investments in the cigarette industry, the main equipment repair shop and the repair shops at the factories have been given priority, strengthened, and modernized in cooperation with the CIME [Metallurgical Research Center]. This has occurred, along with a suitable maintenance policy and the training of skilled personnel.

Volunteer Labor on Farms in Havana Province

FL1312210991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Excerpt] More than 4,000 workers from Habana del Este Municipality have contributed this year in agricultural work in three agricultural-livestock cooperatives in San Antonio de los Banos. The volunteers tend the crops of tubers and vegetables throughout the 22 caballerias of the Gilberto Leon, Jorge Dimitrov, and Jose Marti Cooperatives. During our tour we visited the female brigade, which is the best in the camp. [passage omitted]

Cooperatives Supply Produce for Tourism Sector

FL1412013591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The Abel Santamaria Agricultural Livestock Cooperative [CPA] of Sancti Spiritus is obtaining positive results in the production of tubers and vegetables. [Words indistinct] has established, in coordination with members of cooperatives in the region, a system of gardens to respond to the needs of tourist facilities. To this end, more than 25 different types of products are being cultivated at the Abel Santamaria CPA.

[Begin first unidentified speaker recording] We have grown quite an amount of products this year. We have delivered approximately 1,500 quintals of tubers and vegetables to Select Fruits, an enterprise of the tourist industry. We are committed to reach 2,000 quintals of tubers and vegetables this year. We have 25 products planted here for general consumption and tourism. [end recording]

Despite the ties with Select Fruits, the cooperative has not changed its production goals of tubers and vegetables for the people, nor its tobacco production which is their main crop.

[Begin second unidentified speaker recording] Our plan is to grow 7,000 quintals of tubers and 11,000 quintals of vegetables. We have reached 70 percent in the tuber crop. We have approximately 11,000 quintals to sell the state. We also have 6,000 quintals of vegetables. In other words, we have approximately 11,000, 12,000 quintals for the state. [end recording]

Other cooperatives and state organizations have also joined this system which can be expanded without affecting, as we said before, the production goals established for the people.

Havana Students To Work on Tobacco Plantations

FL1412142591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Beginning in January, approximately 8,000 students from Havana polytechnical schools will travel to Pinar del Rio to work in the tobacco fields for a period of 45 days. Students, teachers, and other education professionals from the capital will be arriving in the western zone between 3 and 5 January. They will be housed in the San Luis, San Juan y Martinez, Consolacion del Sur, and Pinar del Rio Municipalities.

The Havana workforce will help with collecting, watering, and with other tasks needed in the tobacco plantations belonging to government enterprises and the private sector.

Commentary on Agricultural Improvement Plans

PA1612003191 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Cuba's agricultural and livestock sector, forced to make a leap in quality and quantity, is solidly moving forward as a result of measures adopted in recent years to eradicate negative tendencies.

As a result of blindly following the methods of the defunct socialist bloc, strategists and experts implemented procedures in Cuba that did not conform to the habits of the people or to the agricultural requirements of the island.

The eradication of the errors, which were also made in other areas of the economy, began in 1986 in a slow, but sure effort. When the socialist bloc catastrophe took place and Soviet supplies were drastically cut back, Cuba had to focus on additional efforts in the food sector to compensate food deficits.

Researchers, experts, and officials began to work arduously to find new and efficient formulas with a contingent-brigade spirit. The term contingent-brigade is used in Cuba to describe workers, peasants, and scientists who do not restrict their workdays, use their time efficiently, and produce more for the national economy.

Dozens of vanguard brigades that have earned the title of contingent-brigades have broken construction time records, while maintaining good quality, and have built important buildings of social importance.

The members of these contingents have also been tasked with using revolutionary methods, especially in the agricultural sector. These methods include new irrigation techniques on banana, citrus, and other plantations.

These contingent members also specialize in the production of tubers, fruits, and vegetables, sometimes experimentally, to determine the suitability or unsuitability of a new technique.

The contingents play an important role in expanding engineering systems in the planting and harvesting of rice, in the economic development of mountain regions, and in reforestation programs.

The experience that the contingents have acquired within a few years will produce a definite transformation in Cuba's agricultural and livestock sector, which will

function using new concepts and methods to satisfy the food requirements of almost 11 million Cubans.

Possible Return of Military Regimes Noted

PA1312220991 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 91

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] The decade of Latin American military regimes is now behind us, as are the insecurities, the terrible human rights violations, and the constant states of siege. No one wants to hear about the military in Latin America, much less about military people occupying presidential posts.

The military, however, eluded trials that would have sentenced them to life in prison for the abuses they committed during almost 20 years of power.

With ill-disguised expectations, vindictive officers are now watching their countries' economic and social situations from the safety of their barracks. Many of them have not abandoned the possibility of a return to bygone days.

It has often been said that elected democracies must be protected to avoid a return to the days of military arrogance and abuse. But the threat of social turmoil follows close behind the increasingly difficult economic and social situations that our countries are experiencing.

According to a report prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America [ECLA], from 1982 to 1991, the nations of the region transferred $275 billion in cash abroad. This amounts to 62 percent of the area's foreign debt, which is $445 billion. The ECLA report notes that the resources transferred abroad came primarily from the states' budgets. This leads one to believe that the money was secured at the cost of social programs and by reductions that seriously affect the Latin American people.

The frequently mentioned economic adjustment programs that most countries are carrying on their backs are deepening the abyss between the rich and the poor. In the seventies, the latter amounted to 136 million people. At the end of the eighties, there were 186 million poor people.

While some countries hold talks to end lengthy and painful conflicts, and while there is talk around the world of international detente, dangerous enemies are emerging: extreme poverty and economic, political, and social upheavals.

Inequality is a dangerous environment that can breed social explosions. These explosions grow increasingly inevitable as programs are implemented to dismantle state enterprises and diminish the number of workers in order to increase the profits in private hands.

Venezuela and Peru are two countries where economic measures that negatively affect the majority have produced violence. Brazil and Argentina also run the risk of economic deterioration producing very dangerous social explosions.

The governments do not ignore the risks. That is why they are calling for integration plans as alternatives to development. Integration, however, is progressing slower than the adjustment programs. Meanwhile, the military sectors are watching in menacing silence. They are waiting for an opportunity to seize the reins of power, which they yielded against their will.

Havana Watches Closely Developments in USSR

FL1312170191 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Orlando Contreras commentary: "Our Opinion"]

[Text] Newspaper reports received this morning from Moscow indicate that the presidents of the Central Asian republics, after holding a meeting in the Turkmen capital, have declared their willingness to participate in the new Community of Independent States; in other words, the community that the Russian Federation, Byelorussia—or Belarus, as it is now called—and the Ukraine formed on 15 December.

In this regard, a joint report by the TASS and TURMENINFORM news agencies states: The leaders of the sovereign states of Central Asia and Kazakhstan have declared here this morning their willingness to be cofounders, with equal rights, of a Community of Independent States that will take into consideration the interests of all its members.

Meanwhile, the TASS news agency has reported from Moscow that the main topic of today's press is the ratification by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation of the treaty on the creation of the Community of Independent States. It also includes a report published today in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on statements made by President Mikhail Gorbachev to Soviet reporters. These are Gorbachev's words, according to the reports in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA: I think that society should make its choice consciously. But for now, I cannot get rid of the impression that the state is being destroyed.

Aside from whatever the people and authorities of those republics may decide, it seems evident that the USSR, as a multinational country with central power, is not the prevailing trend. For Cuba, in matters of economy and trade, it means that we will have to negotiate with a diversity of authorities and enterprises. It is evident that this poses a much more complex job for the Ministry of Foreign Trade and our enterprises. These are realities that we did not generate, but we cannot ignore. It is therefore essential that we adjust ourselves to that more complex reality which requires us to multiply our individual capabilities.

Domestic policy on economy and trade is our own sovereign prerogative. But in relation to foreign policy, others decide their own policy on who will buy or sell, sign agreements, and will be subject to public and private international law on negotiating and entering into firm economic and commercial agreements. Cuba is observing these changes in other countries with respect, obviously, for those decisions that are not ours, and with total realism and efficiency.

Latin American Parliament President Meets Castro

FL1412162691 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz visited the Venezuelan Embassy where he met with Mr. Humberto Celli, president of the Latin American Parliament and secretary general of the Democratic Action Party of Venezuela, hours before returning to his country. Mr. Celli expressed his appreciation for the invitation he received as president of the Latin American Parliament from the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The meeting transpired in a cordial and friendly atmosphere during which Mr. Celli expressed the solidarity of the Latin American Parliament with Cuba and his desire for it to overcome its current complex situation. Mr. Celli was accompanied by Venezuelan Deputy Timoteo Sambrani and other officials. Juan Escalona Reguera and Zoila Benitez, president and vice president of the National Assembly of the People'e Government, respectively, accompanied Fidel.

Latin American Parliament Opposes U.S. Blockade

PA1512015691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2028 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Havana, 11 Dec (EFE)—Venezuela's Humberto Celli, president of the Latin American Parliament, says that this organization favors the cessation of the U.S. blockade against Cuba. Celli made these remarks at a meeting with Cuban parliamentarians in Havana.

"We support the cessation of the blockade," reiterated Celli, who on 10 December asserted that this is the position held by the Latin American Parliament and the Venezuelan Government.

Celli also expressed concern over the difficult situation Cuba is experiencing as a result of the blockade and the problems in the USSR.

Celli is visiting the island to prepare for the installation in Havana of the Latin American Parliament's Health, Labor, and Social Security Commission, which Cuba will preside over beginning in March, the Venezuelan diplomat announced.

At his meeting with Cuban parliamentarians, Celli said that another one of his goals is to "attest to the Latin American Parliament's solidarity with Cuba."

"I believe that the Cuban Government's efforts are acknowledged with this commission's presidency," he said.

Celli said that the continent's situation demands a move away from rhetoric and a step toward coherent and constructive actions.

In his opinion, monetarist neoliberalism will not resolve the problems of Latin America and the Caribbean. He also warned that such a policy "is doomed to fail because, although it stimulates economic growth, it does not generate development in the broad sense defined in contemporary democratic and progressive thought."

Aldana, Carneado Meet With Religious Leader

FL1412022891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Eunice Santana de Beliz, president of the World Council of Churches, has meet with Politburo member Carlos Aldana at the Central Committee headquarters. Jose Felipe Carneado, member of the Central Committee and chief of the Religious Affairs Department, also participated in the meeting. Many views were exchanged concerning the successful development of the Continental Pastoral Meeting with the church and the Cuban people, which has been in progress since 9 December in the Methodist Church located between 25th and K Streets in El Vedado.

Aldana and Eunice Santana, who participated in the religious meeting, discussed some of the current problems of Christian ethic regarding national independence and social justice. One hundred and twenty-four delegates participated in the most important ecumenical event held in Cuba up to now; 78 were from the U.S. National Council of The Church of Christ, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Latin American Council of Churches, the Caribbean Christian Conference, the German Evangelical Church, and the World Council of Churches. The remainder of the delegates came from Cuban ecumenical institutions.

UNHCR Asked for Haitian Refugees Assistance

PA1612020391 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Report by Ana Peral]

[Text] We now have information concerning a letter asking the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] for assistance in accomodating Haitian refugees arriving in Cuba. We want to say that this is the first time in history that Cuba has asked for assistance of this UN organization.

An agreement between the Cuban Government, the UNHCR, and the Cuban Red Cross was signed in Havana on 13 December. The agreement was geared toward cooperating with the island in accomodating Haitian refugees, who are arriving at Cuban coasts.

(Tim Miltenbaum), regional representative of the UNHCR office in Mexico, talked about the letter.

[Begin recording] [(Miltenbaum)] The letter calls for cooperation between the UNHCR, the Cuban Government, and the Red Cross. According to this letter, the UNHCR confirms its willingness to finance part of the programs being implemented by the Cuban Government to accomodate Haitian refugees through the Cuban Red Cross in the Haitian camps.

[Peral] Could you describe the aid given by Cuba to the Haitian refugees considering its difficult economic situation?

[(Miltenbaum)] As the foreign minister was telling me, the Cuban Government has been allocating all necessary resources to provide good treatment, food, and health services, including the transportation to other facilities of sick people who needed second- or third-level treatment. The government has covered all the expenses needed to take care of over 1,000 people.

[Peral] I believe this is the first time in 30 years that Cuba has asked for UN assistance in this regard?

[(Miltenbaum)] That is true. Cuba has traditionally provided assistance to many Latin American refugees, in this case the Haitians. As for the specific case of the Maisi camp, it has been in operation for the past 10 years, during which time it has provided humanitarian and nonpolitical support for people who for one reason or the other have ended up at the Cuban coasts. They have been given this type of support until they are able to leave.

[Peral] How long will this program last?

[(Miltenbaum)] This program has initially been scheduled to last a month and, depending on the requests that may be made by the Cuban Government, it could be extended for a longer time or the time that may be needed by these people.

[Peral] Finally, you visited the Punta de Maisi camp. Can you talk a little bit about this camp? Can you describe it?

[(Miltenbaum)] Yes, of course. The installations are quite good. The problem is that it has far too many people in it and this creates a somewhat tense situation in the camp because during much of the day they have nothing to do. They are living with the uncertainty of what can happen in the future. However, the Cuban authorities have given all the necessary support for good health, including good food, even though the Haitians complain that they do not have chili powder to spice the food that they are given. They are basically getting good treatment and local officials have done an extraordinary job establishing good logistics for the distribution of food, kitchen utensils, health services, etc. [end recording]

Document Signed for Aid to Haitian Refugees

FL1412031191 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] A memorandum of understanding for aid to the Haitian refugees being sheltered in Cuba has been signed in Havana. The document, the first of its kind in our country, was signed by Alcibiades Hidalgo, interim foreign minister; Esmildo Gutierrez, secretary general of the Cuban Red Cross; and Mr. Chil Mirtenbaum, representing the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, an organization which will allocate the resources to the aid program for Haitian refugees in Cuba. These refugees already number 1,037 and are being sheltered in Guantanamo. The aid, according to the agreement, will be administered by the Cuban Red Cross.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Could you tell us what this aid consists of?

[Chil Mirtenbaum] The aid consists of a program which works jointly with provincial authorities, municipalities, the Red Cross staff there at the Maisi Camp and is structured on various elements such as: food, support with the infrastructure, improvement of conditions, expansion of the infrastructure, and providing several resources which are being supplied by the municipal government at this time. For example, replacing a water truck, logistical supplies which can help the Red Cross personnel at the camp to care more efficiently for the Haitians. [end recording]

Malmierca Arrives in Madrid on Private Visit

PA1412043891 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Madrid, 13 Dec (AFP)—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in Madrid on 13 December on a 24-hour private visit, Cuban diplomatic sources in Madrid have reported.

Isidoro Malmierca arrived at the Barajas Airport in Madrid from London. There are no reports on whether Malmierca will meet with Spanish authorities.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cambodia

FL1312230291 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2044 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Today, the Cuban and Cambodian Foreign Ministries signed a five-year cooperation agreement which will contribute to further the traditional friendship between the two countries. Foreign Vice Minister Giraldo Mazola and (Hing Smoel), Cambodian ambassador to Cuba, signed the agreement at the Foreign Ministry [Minrex] headquarters.

Mazola said the agreement benefits the two countries because it will allow them to work together on matters of common interest. Ambassador (Smoel) said: The document was signed in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual respect which inspires us to continue working together.

(Lai Jeng), second secretary of the Cambodian Embassy; Teresita Fernandez, chief of the Asian Directorate of the Minrex; and other officials from the two countries were also in attendance at the signing.

Korean Delegation Tours Havana, Holds Talks

SK1612062291 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Comrade Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, who is on a visit to Cuba as the special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, has attended the closing ceremony of the Eighth Congress of the Cuban Federation of Secondary School Students held in Havana.

On 7 December, the special envoy held talks with Cuban officials. The special envoy's entourage and Pak Chung-kuk, our country's ambassador to Cuba, attended the talks. Carlos Aldana, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC]; Fernando Ramirez, member of the PCC Central Committee and general coordinator of its International Department; and other officials attended the talks for the Cuban side.

The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

On the same day, the special envoy visited the mayor of Havana, sports facilities in Havana, and the Havana-Pyongyang friendship fountain.

On 8 December, the special envoy visited cooperatives in Havana. On the same day, the PCC Central Committee hosted a banquet for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's special envoy. The special envoy's entourage and Pak Chung-kuk, our country's ambassador to Cuba, were invited. Carlos Aldana, Fernando Ramirez, and other officials, attended for the Cuban side.

Those attending the banquet toasted for the long life and good health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and of Comrade Fidel Castro, the supreme leader of the Cuban Revolution.

On 9 and 10 December, the special envoy met with Antonio Rodriguez Maurell, minister president of the Cuban Central Planning Board; Jesus Montane, aid to Comrade Fidel Castro and chairman of the Cuban committee to support Korean reunification; Melba Hernandez, director of Asia-Oceania Research Center, respectively, and held talks with them in a warm atmosphere.

The special envoy also visited the Cuban biogenetic research center.

Korean Envoy Kim Yong-sun Departs 10 Dec

SK1612102591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] Comrade Kim Yong-sun, special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, wound up his Cuban visit and left Havana on 10 December.

The special envoy was seen off at the airport by Fernando Ramirez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and general coordinator of its International Department, and other officials.

Pak Chung-kuk, our country's ambassador to Cuba, and embassy officials also saw him off at the airport.

Haiti

Army, Executive, Parliamentarians Hold Meeting

FL1312230491 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Report by correspondent Jean-Marie Ferari on a meeting of the Army, parliamentarians, and the executive in Port-au-Prince on 11 December]

[Text] Senator Dupiton has told correspondent Ferari that the three institutions have a common goal: the respect of the country's Constitution.

[Begin recording] [Dupiton] [Words indistinct] The meeting included representatives of several institutions such as the Parliament; high-ranking people in the executive such as the president of the Republic, head of state; and the prime minister, head of the government; the commander in chief of Haiti's Armed Forces; and several officers of the Army High Staff. The meeting was held in an effort to reach a solution. This meeting helped us see, as responsible people, through the numerous statements made and the different sectors of responsibilities, if we had a common stance. Following discussions, we realized that perhaps through different strategies, we all aimed for the same goal: respect of the Constitution; respect of the country's laws; and a willingness to find a favorable solution to the crisis. We must wisely remain open and listen to everyone but we also know that we cannot do anything that would lead a person in charge to breach the Constitution. We reached a common stance which prompts us to assure the Haitian people that the matter is in our hands, we are handling it well, and the nation can trust in us. [end recording]

Reaction to Aristide's Choice of Prime Minister

FL1312223191 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Report by correspondent Jean-Marie Ferari at the Legislative Palace; italicized passages in Creole]

[Text] There is a new element in the negotiations aimed at finding a solution to the Haitian crisis. Reverend Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide has proposed Victor Benoit, the leader of the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] and member-spokesman for the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], as prime minister under Article 137 of the

Constitution. This decision has evoked reaction and comments at the Legislative Palace. Let us listen to a report by Jean-Marie Ferari.

[Begin recording] [Ferari] *One week after the departure of the OAS mission chief Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, there is a new element in the negotiations that are being held to find a solution to the crisis that the country is experiencing. This new element comes from Rev. Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, one of the concerned parties, who has proposed Professor Victor Benoit, the Conacom leader who is also an FNCD member as the new prime minister in compliance with Article 137 of the Constitution.*

We recall that this new name was not on the list of 12 names previously proposed by Aristide and delivered by Mr. Ocampo to the Legislative Chamber. How did the two chambers react to this new decision? FNCD Deputy Jean (Bordenave) thinks [words indistinct].

[(Bordenave)] *[Words indistinct] President Aristide made. He already proposed a list of 12 candidates from which to choose a prime minister, but the Parliament approved none of them. If he chooses Victor Benoit now, it is not because Victor Benoit is a good friend of his. On the contrary, I think he is looking for a way to get the country out of this crisis. I believe Victor Benoit can attract all sectors by his temperament and his qualities. He is not a biased man who would favor one sector more than another. Thus, Victor Benoit can be chosen. I assume this is not a bad choice.*

[Ferari] *According to Grand Anse Senator Bernard Sansaricq [words indistinct].*

[Sansaricq] *Likeswise, I have also heard that on the radio. Personally, I know the Senate of the Republic has already submitted two names to the OAS. I support these two names. I do not think this new maneuver will be able to make the Senate change its position. This falls in line with a division maneuver. [Words indistinct] We will not be caught in this trap.*

[Ferari] *Deputy Millevoye Sanon thinks this is a good choice no matter what problems Professor Benoit had in the past.*

[Sanon] No matter what may be said [words indistinct] Victor Benoit, on whatever plane and for whatever reason, owing to his position as FNCD member, once his choice as prime minister is ratified, the country will certainly be back to the state in which it was before the events of 13 August [attack against parliamentarians on the interpellation of Prime Minister Rene Preval]....

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] *Of 30 September?*

[Sanon] *Of 30 September.*

[Ferari] *As for Deputy Josue Lafrance, he maintains his previous position, that is Article 149.*

[Lafrance] *We in the chamber have applied Article 149. I do not see why Aristide [words indistinct]. A number of foreigners have allowed themselves to interfere in our internal affairs. We do not understand that. We do not at all understand that. Aristide does not have this right. [Words indistinct] It is over, it is over. We know our country is going through a crisis. We need a Haitian solution as it is a Haitian crisis.*

[Ferari] *Senator Eddy Dupiton went further than his colleague Bernard Sansaricq.*

[Dupiton] *[Words indistinct] as the prime minister of the country. On what grounds has Aristide made this choice? Because as far as I know, the only person who is entitled to appoint a prime minister is the president of the Republic. Father Jean-Bertrad Aristide is Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. If you asked me if he is a bishop, I would answer: (?No), maybe the pope—or maybe on a proposal by the government—has appointed him bishop. I would appreciate that he be appointed bishop.*

[Unidentified journalist] *Senator Dupiton, I believe you are negotiating. But what are you negotiating? Is it the lifting of the embargo or Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to the supreme office of the Haitian state?*

[Dupiton] *What concerns the Haitian people is that the 34 OAS countries have taken a decision that has involved all Haitian people in something that they do not comprehend nor understand. As we are responsible people, we are trying to understand. As the OAS has asked us to meet with it and to discuss these things, we discuss them, but we see that the people are suffering. What is amazing is that Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide said he has the power to have the embargo lifted because he is the one who asked the OAS to take measures that could help him return to the country and these measures taken by the OAS were to impose an embargo on the Haitian people. We are negotiating with the OAS.*

We have gone so far as to meet with Father Aristide to ask him if his love for this people and his mission as a priest fall in line with starving a people to death. People are dying; patients cannot be taken to hospitals for medical care; the peasants' produce is spoiling; goods are depleting; the people are nervous; they have begun to lose patience. For its part, the Army does not know how it will cope with this problem, the problem of a nation that is being worn down, irritated.... [changes thought] Finally, we note that no one wants to understand what kind of situation we are facing now. You in the press stand by only the following: Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, embargo, prime minister. I believe that is all rubbish. What is important then is the following question: Is Haiti a sovereign country for the time being?

[Ferari] *Many reactions were noted at the legislative chamber following Father Aristide's decision to appoint Professor Victor Benoit, the Conacom leader as his prime minister in compliance with Article 137 of the Constitution. What is the opinion of the nominee? We promise you to try to meet with Professor Victor Benoit before any analysis. This subject remains open.* [end recording]

Army Reportedly Surrounds, Closes Parliament

PA1412022591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0032 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 13 Dec (NOTIMEX)—On 13 December, soldiers surrounded and closed the Haitian Parliament due to the possibility that Social Democrat Victor Benoit could be appointed the new prime minister, legislative sources have reported.

The operation took place after it was learned that an agreement was reached between legislators and ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to appoint Benoit as prime minister, the sources said.

According to the sources, the Army decided to occupy the parliament to end the process of mediation between the legislators and OAS.

They added that the military forces rejected the appointment of Benoit, who heads the party of the National Congress of Democratic Movements (Conacom), as the next Haitian prime minister.

The majority of the congress was about to vote in favor of Benoit's appointment; however, this was prevented by the military forces and the absence of Senate Chairman Dejean Belizaire, the sources added.

According to diplomatic sources, the U.S. Embassy in this capital is also opposed to Benoit's appointment.

Benoit is a professor and school director who participated in the formation of Conacom, which is a Social Democratic organization created in 1987.

Conacom was part of the coalition "National Front for Change and Democracy" that supported Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's candidacy in the 16 December 1990 elections.

The negotiations for the appointment of a new prime minister prompted a special meeting at the National Palace on 11 December.

De facto President Judge Joseph Nerette, Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, the Senate's chairmen and deputies, as well as representatives from the Army, participated in the negotiations.

According to legislative sources, the meeting only produced an agreement to respect the constitutional process.

The differences between the Army and a majority group of legislators were obvious, particularly when Benoit was proposed as new prime minister, the sources added.

Deputy Denies Rumors of Aristide's Return

PA1512040891 Paris AFP in Spanish 0150 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 14 Dec (AFP)—Frantz Monde, vice president of the Haitian Chamber of Deputies, has denied rumors of the possible return to Haiti of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 16 December. Meanwhile, reports of an opposition leader's arrest spread among the population.

According to Monde, the growing rumors circulating throughout the capital began with a statement made by Aristide himself from abroad. The statements were directed at "pushing the Armed Forces into taking reprisals" and "sending people to die and be beaten for nothing."

"It is not true" that Aristide will return, the deputy said over national radio, asking the people to remain calm and the Armed Forces "not to be fooled" in case tensions should rise on 16 December, the first anniversary of the election of the reverend president.

A military high command communique aired over the radio said that "all measures necessary to insure everyone's safety are being taken."

Trustworthy sources reported the arrest of Greber Thibaut on 14 December. Thibaut is the mayor of Gros Morne, a town 200 km northeast of Port-au-Prince and a member of the coalition that supported Aristide's candidacy.

Security forces, firing shots into the air, prevented a rally in support of the deposed regime from taking place at the Gros Morne temple.

Aristide was ousted on 30 September 1991 and went into exile in Caracas the very next day.

Guantanamo Bay Refugees React to Rumored Threat

FL1412135191 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Some 5,500 Haitians, camping out at Guatanamo Bay, Cuba, created a disturbance on Thursday. The refugees were reacting to a rumor that Fidel Castro reportedly would have them killed if they did not leave the island in five days. Well, that proved untrue. A U.S. Air Force cargo plane has meanwhile flown to Guantanamo Bay, bringing 25 tons of supplies for the refugees being housed there.

El Salvador

FMLN Negotiators' Plane Makes Emergency Landing

PA1412031691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0135 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—On 13 December, Salvadoran guerrillas reported an alleged attempt on the lives of four rebel "commanders," who were traveling on a plane from Honduras to Mexico, and then to New York, to attend the peace talks with the government, scheduled to begin 16 December.

Citing rebel sources, local station Radio Cadena YSU reported that the four "commanders," whose names were not given, had been evacuated from war zones in El Salvador by UN representatives and transferred to Tegucigalpa, where they boarded a plane, which had mechanical problems before arriving to Mexico City.

The aircraft made an emergency landing in Mexico, but neither the crew members, nor the commanders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) were harmed.

An international source linked to the transfer of the "commanders" confirmed the incident, which he said was due to engine failure. He could not confirm if it was an attempt on their lives, as the rebels claim.

The FMLN Marxist rebels and the rightist government of Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani will begin a new round of talks in New York on 16 December under UN auspices. Definitive results are expected for the signing of a peace agreement.

FMLN Commander Reports

PA1412202691 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0015 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Report by Rene Hurtado]

[Text] We are in contact with Mexico City, where members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] have reported an attack on field commanders who arrived in Mexico City on their way to New York for talks with the Salvadoran Government. This is Commander Raul Hercules, who flew to Mexico City, reporting on an attack on FMLN commanders.

[Begin recording] [Hercules] We wish to the report to our people and the military forces of the FMLN and National Army for Democracy that UN personnel picked us up at our front positions at noon on 13 December. We were flown to Tegucigalpa and at the airport, we were approached by members of the Salvadoran Embassy in Honduras for details related to our trip. I wish to point out that such personnel have not been present on previous trips. The details and paperwork had been handled by other people. On this particular occasion, however, their attitude was very hostile. We wondered about this, as every civilized person would wonder. We did not like their manner. Anyway, we later boarded a plane for Mexico. After four hours in the air and while flying at 5000 meters, one of the engines exploded. Naturally, we started to look for some place to land. We continued in the direction of Mexico City. Above Cuernavaca, the plane's second engine overheated. All that remained was to await our death. We spied a landing strip near Cuernavaca and made an emergency landing with all the necessary precautions. Thanks to the pilot and copilot, the situation was not more serious.

[Hurtado] Commander Hercules, was the plane private or commercial?

[Hercules] It was a private plane chartered by the United Nations. The plane had flown from Mexico to Tegucigalpa, where it had stayed.

[Hurtado] Do you think this situation might have been brought about in Honduras on purpose?

[Hercules] Maybe. The plane might have been prepared for us. The plane had arrived from Mexico City several hours earlier.

[Hurtado] If it was here that the attempt on the lives of the FMLN commanders on their way to Mexico took place, who could be responsible?

[Hercules] Judging by the hostile stand of the Salvadoran Embassy personnel in Honduras, [words indistinct] the obscure circles that do not want peace are the ones who have their hands in this. We have pondered the whole situation. These people do not want peace. They want the negotiations to come crashing down. [Words indistinct].

[Hurtado] Can you tell us how many FMLN commanders were in the plane and who they were?

[Hercules] There were seven people aboard: four FMLN members, one UN official, and two crew members.

[Hurtado] Now that the danger is over, are the commanders willing to fly to New York?

[Hercules] Of course. We are willing to travel and do everything possible to attain peace. [end recording]

Officials Comment on Role of Truth Commission

PA1512044391 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] As a result of the peace negotiations, the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] signed in Mexico City in April a document on the composition of the Truth Commission. According to the agreement, the commission is to be made up of three members designated by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar with the approval of the parties to the negotiations. Early this week, Perez de Cuellar designated Belisario Betancur, former president

of Colombia; Reinaldo Figueredo, former foreign minister of Venezuela; and Thomas Burgenthal, a U.S. professor, as commission members.

According to the agreement, the Truth Commission will be responsible for clarifying the human rights violations that have shaken the country since 1980. The appointments have been viewed favorably by all sectors as an important step in the country's peace process. Nevertheless, remarks by opposition members who oppose peace express disagreement with Perez de Cuellar's decision. According to Calderon Sol, president of the governing National Republican Alliance [ARENA], the commission should have been formed by Salvadorans. Calderon Sol also tried to distort the commission's true role.

[Calderon Sol] "The commission is not going to investigate facts. My understanding is that the role of the Truth Commission is to learn about the country's problems. This is not an investigation commission, especially since it involves foreigners."

Mario Aguinada Carranza, secretary general of the National Democratic Union, does not share Calderon Sol's view. Aguinada Carranza has his own ideas about the commission's true role.

[Aguinada] "Calderon Sol says the commission will investigate the monstrous human rights violations that have shaken Salvadoran society and the world. [sentence as heard] The commission will be a sort of recipient of the population's demands and reports."

According to the Christian Democratic Party, revealing the truth is what counts. Deputy Eduardo Colindres said the Truth Commission has a great deal of work to do. He predicted that governing circles involved in human rights violations would exert their influence.

[Colindres] "The commission will meet with opposition because those responsible for such violations will do everything in their power to hide the truth. They will do anything, legal or illegal, to prevent the truth from shining through. Nevertheless, both the government and the FMLN have pledged to cooperate with the commission as much as possible. It would be wrong to say that the entire institution is guilty because one member of the Armed Forces, the government, or the FMLN is sentenced. There must be differentiation between the guilty and the innocent, but to make that differentiation, it is necessary to find the guilty."

Colindres mentioned the murders of Monsignor Arnulfo Romero and the Jesuits as being among the cases to be examined by the Truth Commission.

Juan Jose Martel, a Democratic Convergence deputy, was pleased with the appointment of the commission members and said that this creates the possibility of establishing a cease-fire. Martel explained why the commission members are foreigners.

[Martel] "The fact that the members have already been appointed creates the possibility for a cease-fire. The appointment process itself demonstrates why it is necessary for the members to be foreigners. It is true that there are many able and impartial Salvadorans who could do the work. But in light of pressures by the Armed Forces, which historically have been one of the power centers in our country, often even more powerful than the elected civilian government officials, it was necessary for non-Salvadorans to participate in this process."

As we heard at the beginning of this report, ARENA's Calderon Sol is the only one who does not agree with the creation of the Truth Commission. Political analyst Luis Cardenal, a representative of the Center for the Study of Democracy and one of Calderon Sol's advisers at the San Salvador mayor's office, has said that the fact that the commission is composed of foreigners could facilitate inquiries into past crimes. Calderon Sol hinted at the possibility that the people involved in these violations could exert pressure against such inquiries. Because of this, the whole nation, with the exception of the people involved in hideous crimes, is satisfied with the designation of the three commission members. The truth is that their appointment irreversibly paves the way for peace. The Truth Commission will identify for the country and the world the perpetrators of the crimes that shook the nation.

Copaz Ends Fourth Meeting; Draft Bill Approved

PA1412022991 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Report by William Melendez]

[Text] The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] recently concluded its fourth meeting in Mexico City with the signing of a draft bill establishing the commission. The draft bill will be presented before the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly eight days after a final cease-fire has been signed.

In statements made to SALPRESS, Fidel Chavez Mena, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party described the signing of the document as significant to the Salvadoran peace process.

[Begin recording] Basically, the issues discussed during the Copaz meeting that started on 11 December and concluded today were the following:

1. A final review to the Copaz draft bill, which was unanimously approved by all participating members. The draft bill was signed by the political parties, as well as the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. This was the most significant point of the meeting. There was unanimous agreement by all of us to support the draft bill.

2. A special legislative decree bill was also drafted. This decree would legalize, at the appropriate time, the FMLN as a political party. In addition, its inscription as a political party would be ipso jure in the National Election Council registry.

3. A political and moral commitment to honor all agreements enacted by COPAZ was agreed to by all the participants. In addition, it was agreed that the political parties would encourage, through their respective legislative factions, the implementation of bills resulting from the peace negotiation between the FMLN and the government.

In other words, there is a commitment by the political parties to support the peace process, its final agreements, the New York Agreements, as well as to support legislative projects that may come about as a consequence of the peace process.

I believe that this is really an important point because the political parties have acknowledged that the peace process is more important than specific party political interests. In this respect, the political parties agree to start a political concerted effort process that is to evolve around the peace process.

Finally,it was agreed that the next COPAZ meeting will take place from 10 to 13 January 1992 and the topics to be reviewed will be the following:

1. To discuss the documents and reports currently available and related to physically disabled persons.

2. To discuss available documents dealing with human rights mechanisms and measures.

3. To discuss the formal COPAZ scheduled program, as well as it organization. [end recording]

On the hand, Ruben Zamora of the Social Christian People's Movement stressed that the signing of the draft bill is very meaningful. According to Zamora, it is the first time the political parties, the government, and the FMLN have agreed to transform the document into a reality.

Mr. Zamora added that the signing of the document will contribute to accelerate the negotiation process between the government and the guerrillas.

Santamaria Views Prospects for Talks in New York

PA1512184191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Speech by Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, head of the Government Dialogue Commission, in San Salvador on 12 December; recorded—broadcast in progress]

[Text]...I also reassert that this was established based on those viewpoints and the preliminary agreement in New York. In other words, economic and social issues have been fully discussed.

During the meeting in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, we discussed the participation of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in politics. We discussed this topic, and I must emphasize that everything concerning the FMLN's participation in politics must be included on the agenda's point about the calendar of events. Much of this is closely linked to a calendar of events. I will later explain what is being done about the topic called a calendar of events and the implementation of the agreements. We have discussed the topic and we see that a framework has been created. This can represent substantial and significant progress within our assessment of the agenda's contents.

As for the other issue, meaning the UN secretary general's invitation to transfer the talks to New York, we think that the agenda will become more manageable because—as we see it—everything that has been settled in San Miguel de Allende has become a necessary and important antecedent for the work that must be done during what may very well be the final discussion of pending points. These pending points include what we discussed in San Miguel de Allende: the calendar for the implementation of agreements. This calendar includes all the steps that must be taken and the measures that must be adopted for the implementation and compliance of these agreements. This is certainly one of the issues that we will discuss in New York because, given their nature, they cannot be discussed unless the agreements we are talking about have been reached.

The other point pending revision in New York is the one about the conditions for a final cease-fire. You may recall that we said this point must be reviewed once we establish the framework of the political agreements we are currently seeking on the other topics. This is how things stand right now, and we will attend the New York meeting at the invitation of the UN secretary general under these conditions. We feel that the UN secretary general's invitation is an important step in the process. This endorsement from the UN secretary general, precisely when the process is in its most crucial phase, certainly helps. There is another factor that I will mention even though it has already been mentioned. The UN secretary general is about to conclude his mandate on 31 December and this has resulted in commentaries about the time he has left and about the possibility of successfully completing the process. Therefore, this calls for some comments.

We believe that we have yet to establish a date for the end of the process but we have certainly established some points of reference. We established some points of reference that indicate we might conclude the negotiation and sign the final agreements before the end of the year—and the end of the conflict, of course. We have established a framework of reference but it is only a framework of reference. We are not establishing specific dates, and we have stated that the progress made in the process so far allows us to realistically visualize the conclusion of the process in December.

This process also entails proposals from both parties involved in the negotiations; it demands a political willingness and a positive attitude so that these agreements may be reached. Furthermore, there are two very

important things: the rationale used to outline the positions at the negotiating table and the flexibility, meaning the attitudes, of the parties at the negotiations. We feel that the Salvadoran people should be fully aware that the government is exerting itself to the utmost, that it is adopting its best attitude, and that it is stating its firm political willingness to reach agreements as soon as possible. Everything will depend on what happens from now on at the negotiations to settle pending points in the agreements that we may achieve in New York.

I do not know if the New York meeting will allow us to successfully complete the negotiation process. We have said that the secretary general's presence is an important factor, but there is little time left before he completes his term of office. Thus, we cannot predict that his presence will represent a guarantee that agreements will be successfully completed during the rounds of talks we will start with him. However, the secretary general's presence certainly gives the negotiating process a boost. We are in no way trying to undermine the value of the work carried out by the UN secretary general's representative, Mr. Alvaro De Soto, but the secretary general's presence certainly gives the talks special meaning. It also gives us the opportunity to find with his guidance, a series of positions that will eventually enable us to reach an agreement.

We have always said that this mediation actually enables the parties to find common paths leading to the agreements that must finally be reached. We have seen it this way, we have been working with the mediation, and we hope the positions set forth by the parties up to now can take into account the elements that can constitute a common denominator so that the secretary can point to the paths that can lead to the signing of agreements.

FMLN Responds to Transportation Fare Hike

PA1612041291 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] With regard to the Association of Salvadoran Bus Owners' recent announcement of an increase in the collective transportation fares, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's Modesto Ramirez Urban Command states the following:

1. That this type of measure hurts even more the people's difficult economic situation and does not help to solve the country's crisis at all. On the contrary, these measures worsen the crisis because they are impositions that affect even the reconciliation process itself.

2. We believe that, even if it is true that the transportation sector has problems, it does not justify a solution that makes the country's poor even poorer. The majority of the users are poor and the full weight of the cost is being laid upon them.

This is intolerable. Deserved bonuses are denied while the already high cost of living is further increased by hiking the fares.

We call on the transportation sector to think this matter over and become aware of the reality of the problem and, therefore, demand a subsidy from the government or that it find another suitable alternative to keep the crisis and polarization from growing.

We urge the people to speak out against the increase in fares. We reiterate our decision to take note of this and we will be attentive to the decisions of our General Staff concerning the increase in the fares.

[signed] Modesto Ramirez Urban Command

Guatemala

Serrano Talks About Rebels, U.S. Policies

PA1412034191 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Dec 91

["Topics and News" talk show with President Jorge Serrano Elias and journalists Carlos Riddel and Edgardo Melgar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Melgar] The number of common crimes has increased in recent years because we have gone from the political, and perhaps ideological, violence of the 1980's to common crimes, muggings, armed robberies of homes, etc. Should the Armed Forces new role aim in that direction?

[Serrano] I want to tell you that this involves two entirely different things. One, the issue of violence and crime. Almost all the countries in the world, no matter how powerful they are, face limitations when it comes to fighting crime. Now then, we believe a number of factors are involved in the fight against crime. First of all, there is the factor of the preventive role played by security forces. It should really prevent and discourage the prevention of crime.

The other issue refers to a supervisory and protective role. There is also the issue about the appropriate role played by the judicial organizations. Otherwise, the security forces will be discouraged to discover a criminal has been set free due to lack of evidence. This is an extremely grave vicious circle.

Referring to the second part of your question...

[Melgar, interrupting] The Armed Forces role when common crimes have increased and when we are [words indistinct].

[Serrano] I want to tell you that, in my opinion, the Armed Forces role is vital. The rebel aggression my country has experienced was basically controlled due to the role played by the Armed Forces. The rebels have waged a war....[pauses] an armed subversive struggle against the state and the law. It is a very well financed international struggle; and it is a very well financed political struggle.

[Melgar] Until today?

[Serrano] Until today. The big question is the source of their financing. We heard a representative—specifically the [name indistinct] representative—say that he would strive to get money if the socialist revolution triumphs. In my opinion, this is a totally unreal, subjective opinion and it does not correspond to the situation prevailing in our country.

Guatemala has a small Army, compared with any country in the world. It is an Army that is subject to permanent aggression. For example, shortly before I left for Honduras today, I was notified that a rebel commando had killed a [word indistinct] captain who was a doctor. He and two Army specialists were participating in a vaccination campaign. Our Army is a civilized institution...

[Melgar, interrupting] It is an indiscriminate struggle.

[Serrano] It is working for the country's welfare and this kind of action cannot be explained. It is part of a fruitless and totally unfair struggle. Particularly when there is a democratic ruler, like I am, who has opened his arms and has agreed to participate in a rational dialogue with the rebels, and has done everything within his means to find a peaceful solution to the controversy. I have never adopted a negative attitude, and I have always observed a totally open and civilized conduct.

[Melgar] What is it that we want?

[Serrano] Any Guatemalan who has an issue to settle should wage his ideological struggle from the trenches, meaning participating in politics, not through assassinations or practices that the whole world rejects and that we, the Guatemalans, reject with all our hearts.

[Riddel] Mr. President, we have received information that your government hopes to achieve a complete peace with the guerrilla groups—rather than a cease-fire—in the negotiations that were started this year. What can you tell us about this?

[Serrano] My government proposed, as you said, the thesis about an overall peace because I am firmly convinced that the end of the conflict does not guarantee peace. Peace will guarantee fair economic and social conditions, correct management of justice, human rights, and the strengthening of our democratic system. If these conditions do not exist, we will have another source of social unrest that will result in other kinds of conflict. We have previously referred to this and we definitely do not want this to happen in Guatemala. That is why peace does not consist on merely reaching a pact with a group of rebels. Instead, it should be the result of national agreements—meaning agreements with the labor unions, private sector, intellectual groups, popular groups, religious groups, and probably agreements with rebel groups. This is what we have endorsed and that is peace as we see it.

[Riddel] Last week you made changes within the military hierarchy. Was it the result of an agreement with the guerrillas?

[Serrano] Absolutely not.

[Riddel] Why were they made?

[Serrano] Those changes within the military hierarchy were made because I, as commander general of the Army, thought it was advisable to make them before we issue the new general order of the Army, which calls for the rotation of commanders.

[Melgar] Is this a qualitative review of the Armed Forces?

[Serrano] Definitely, that is what it is; a qualitative review of the Armed Forces...

[Riddel, interrupting] Is this necessary in the Guatemalan Army?

[Serrano] I believe all armies must undergo qualitative reviews.

[Melgar] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] There is a philosophical principle stating that any institution made up of men has room for improvement. This means that people like us who lead institutions are responsible for improving them. For example, you have hosted this program for a long time on Honduran television and have managed to do so, because you have been innovative, tackled challenges, and improved the program.

I, as commander general of the Army, have that responsibility: To maintain its permanent professionalism and ensure that it improves in the fulfillment of its duties day after day by supporting it, but also [word indistinct]. That is why I thought it was advisable to replace the High Command leadership.

[Melgar] Mr. President, in August, (?during your visit) to President Callejas we asked you the following: What is your opinion of U.S. policy toward Central America regarding demilitarization on the eve of the presidential summit?

[Serrano] As for demilitarization in Guatemala, I must say that our country has not received assistance from the United States; it has had to fight an aggression for more than 30 years—which came initially from ideological forces promoted and financed by [word indistinct] countries—and that aggression still exists. Moreover, our countries are now facing another problem: Drug trafficking and the production of drugs such as marijuana and poppy.

We must defend our country's sovereignty; our national integrity. Our Army is small and insufficient and our aerial mobilization and weapons are insufficient.

I could not, under any circumstances, (?accept a thesis) from the United States or any international organization that would stop me from defending my country's liberty and the dignity of Guatemalans; from defending the state against the aggression of drug trafficking and subversion, which have been present for more than 30 years.

[Melgar] [Question indistinct]

[Serrano] I am convinced that Guatemala will be able to make great innovations; we will be able to invest a lot more in the social area once subversive aggression is over. As long as there is subversion, we have the essential duty of defending the state and fulfilling our duties.

[Melgar] Mr. President, is it still not possible to identify the source of the political and financial aid for the rebel forces operating in your country?

[Serrano] We know that they received aid from countries of the Socialist bloc in the past. They are currently receiving aid from some friends who still believe that socialism will solve problems. We also have indications that drug trafficking is linked to subversive actions. We will present concrete evidence once we have it. [passage omitted]

President Meets With Military Commanders

PA1512191591 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 12 Dec 91 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 December—On 10 December President Jorge Serrano Elias met with military commanders at the former Polytechnic School. He wanted to justify the changes he made in the Army's High Command. Serrano replaced Defense Minister General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia and General Edgar Godoy as chief of the National Defense General Staff.

A military source, who asked not to be identified, said that President Serrano tried in vain to convince the commanders that he had to make the changes in the High Command. He said that it was a routine action which he took as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The source added that Serrano did not specify the reasons he made the changes and the commanders who were present at the meeting were not satisfied with the explanations. Many of them said that they were left with the impression that the president does not trust the Army. The source said that the commanders reached the conclusion that two of the reasons for the changes in the High Command were the case of Noe de Jesus Beteta and Myrna Mack and the acquisition of the Sikorsky helicopters. However, Serrano did not give any further details on the subject.

On 11 December, during a breakfast with reporters at the national Palace, Vice President Gustavo Adolfo Espina tried to explain why Serrano met with the commanders. Espina said it was a routine meeting that he frequently holds to discuss routine matters as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Espina added that Serrano meets with the military officers to exchange views on matters related to the Army. He stressed that such meetings are normal and that there is nothing extraordinary about them.

Foreign Minister Reaffirms Position on Belize

PA1312211191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1921 GMT 12 Dec 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Referring to the friction in Guatemala caused by the establishment of relations with the former British colony of Belize, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez told ACAN-EFE on 12 December that his country maintains the position that Belize is an independent state.

For 150 years Guatemala claimed the Belizean territory—the only English-speaking country in Central America—and did not recognize its independence until three months ago.

The minister explained that Guatemala and Belize must form several commissions to address pending bilateral matters, including the delimitation of their common border.

Menendez, who is attending the 11th Central American summit, announced that Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano will make his postponed trip to Belize in the first three months of 1992.

Serrano, who was strongly criticized by opposition and nationalist sectors when he established relations with the former British colony, canceled his visit to Belize at the last minute. Serrano was scheduled to attend the 10th anniversary of Belizean independence in September.

Belizean Prime Minister George Price is participating as an observer at the Tegucigalpa summit meeting attended by Serrano and the other Central American presidents.

Price has expressed his country's interest in strengthening ties with Central America, which wants to improve relations with the Caribbean Common Market composed of Belize and other English-speaking countries of the Antilles.

The two blocs plan to hold a joint ministerial meeting in late January in Honduras to discuss areas of cooperation.

Radio Threatened for Airing Rebel Propaganda

PA1512222291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1658 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Ramiro McDonald, director of Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas, which broadcasts the "Guatemala Flash" newscast, announced on 15 December that the newscast's employees have received death threats for broadcasting propaganda for the Guatemalan guerrillas as commercial advertisements.

This week, guerrilla leaders purchased air time on the country's leading radio stations to deliver messages denouncing the paramilitary patrols and to highlight the need for dialogue with the government to achieve peace.

The guerrillas also reported the Army's indiscriminate bombing of the civilian population, demanded respect for human rights, and called upon popular organizations to defend the people's interests.

"An anonymous caller who identified himself as a respectable officer threatened to bomb the offices of Cadena de Emisoras Unidas for having broadcast guerrilla messages," McDonald said.

The unidentified caller warned the station's personnel and the director to abstain from broadcasting such propaganda "because they would regret it," and that if it continues "we will bomb you...we will make you disappear."

In the opinion of the station director, the paid guerrilla messages fall within the framework of current legislation and the democratic principles of the Constitution.

This is the first time in 30 years of internal war that a station like Cadena de Emisoras Unidas has broadcast guerrilla advertisements during air time set aside for commercials.

Meanwhile, Manuel Conde, head of the government mission, who has met six times with the rebel "commanders," said that "this (the paid ads) is further evidence of a democratic opening, and what is regrettable is that issues that should be discussed at the negotiations table are being brought up."

Car Bomb Explodes in Capital, No Injuries

PA1412012591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2257 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Dec (NOTIMEX)—A powerful bomb exploded on the night of 12 December inside a vehicle parked in the downtown area of this capital, the National Police reported on 13 December.

The explosion, which did not cause any injuries, alarmed the residents in the Bella Aurora neighborhood, who informed the authorities.

According to police reports, unidentified individuals placed a bomb inside a pick-up truck, which was completely destroyed by the blast.

Police authorities are trying to identify the owner of the abandoned vehicle.

There have been four explosions in Guatemala in less than one month, three of them in Guatemala City.

On 12 December, an unidentified person hurled a grenade at an evangelical church in the southwestern town of Tiquizate, killing two people and injuring two others.

On 15 November, an anonymous group placed a dynamite charge at a private clinic in Guatemala City; and on 21 November, a bomb was placed in front of the "Roosevelt" Hospital.

Nicaragua

Sandinists Said Blocking Peace on Atlantic Coast

PA1312224591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Brooklyn Rivera, director of the Nicaraguan Institute for the Development of the Autonomous Regions of the Atlantic Coast, accused the Sandinist leadership in Puerto Cabezas of blocking the establishment of peace in Puerto Cabezas, Rio Coco, and other North Atlantic Coast communities. Rivera told "Events," a Radio Sandino program that the violent outbreaks in Puerto Cabezas during the past few days were attempts by the Sandinst National Liberation Front to regain ground in the North Atlantic Coast.

Rivera has accused Lionel Pantin, regional governor of the North Atlantic Coast, of having business interests in several fishing enterprises that have exported over 60,000 pounds of shrimp and lobster. Rivera charged that this business produces significant income for the franchisers, who do not pay taxes toward the region's development.

Rivera's statements were ratified by [word indistinct] director Jaime [name indistinct]. The situation in Puerto Cabezas in the past few days has become serious. Rivera said that this situation has nothing to do with the accusation by Mirna Cunningham and Leonel Pantin that he took over buildings. Steadman Fagoth, Misurasata [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity] representative at the State Council, called Rivera a madman and an opportunist.

Sandinists, 'Center Bloc' Send Letter to Cesar

PA1312235491 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Dec 91 pp 1, 10

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Text] On 10 December, a group of nine UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies and 39 Sandinist deputies sent a letter to the National Assembly president demanding a vote on the presidential veto to Law 133, with the obvious intention of approving it.

The letter is considered the first "official" declaration by the so-called "Center Bloc" [Grupo de Centro].

In an exclusive interview with BARRICADA, Deputy Ivan Salvador Madriz confirmed the existence of the new political movement and said that in the future they intend developing "a project, which, if approved, will be called the National Union of the Center [Union Nacional del

Centro—UNC] and would consolidate various UNO parties. [no end quotation marks as published]

The power relationship at the National Assembly has been radically modified by the support given to the presidential veto of Law 133 and the opposition's statement on the national budget draft resolution.

The Center Bloc, however, "does not accept executive branch plans and will not succumb to FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] pressures. We believe that if 1992 is going to be a year for an improved economy, we need to eliminate the existing polarization at the National Assembly. This polarization is preventing the advancement of peace, stability, and development project," Madriz said.

The letter the group sent to Alfredo Cesar caused much disturbance among the deputies. The UNO radicals have launched a notorious negative campaign calling them "pro-Sandinists," "pro-Lacayo," [lacayistas] and "traitors."

"We have been unfairly attacked, insulted, and even slandered," Madriz said, who admits they agree with the FSLN on certain law initiatives, "but we do it because we consider the laws reasonable and of great social content."

This agrees with the concept of a democratic Army, which the new political group supports. "We understand democracy, but with social justice. We agree with the bishops' pastoral letter which calls for an option for the poor and the freedom of conscience, without pressures, flattery, threats, or coercion," Madriz stated.

In the case of the budget, the group supports the opposition position presented by the FSLN, "because it has a greater projection toward the social area and it agrees with our principles of democracy with social justice."

Madriz defended the group's decision to sign the letter sent to Cesar with the FSLN. "This document also covers the FSLN's intention not to promote disturbances during 1992 and thus contribute toward an improved economy," he said.

"In this discussion we found the FSLN's proposal more reasonable, however, if we do not agree with projects or initiatives presented in the future, we will vote against them," Madriz warned.

The group does not support Law 133 because it was not approved by consensus. "Law 133 is not functional and it is unconstitutional."

Madriz rejected the charges of "traitors" and "betrayers." "As proof of our honesty to the people, we have agreed that no Center Bloc member will accept—if offered—a government cabinet post," Madriz said.

The letter is signed by nine Center Bloc deputies. Madriz gave assurances that they have the support of at least 16 representatives of various other parties on other topics.

"Countless party members are pleased with the Center Bloc's position; we have managed to conquer our own political dilemma and whoever does not recognize this is out of touch," Madriz said.

The political dilemma Madriz refers to could be illustrated with the following anecdote:

On 11 December, Dr. Miriam Arguello, before the beginning of the session, shouted and reprimanded Deputy Guillermo Chavarria—a Center Bloc member—for his report in BARRICADA on the threat campaign he is experiencing.

Deputy Ardilia Sirias immediately defended Chavarria, replying to Dr. Arguello's charges as follows:

"Just one moment. Stop shouting at him; you are not his father! Because he is no longer on your side he is accused of being a thief!" Adilia Sirias said.

"Mind your own business!" replied Dr. Arguello.

"It is my business, because he belongs to my group and from now on no one who belongs to our group is going to be trampled on!" Deputy Sirias told Arguello, while seven other deputies also voiced support for Chavarria.

Assembly Approves Chamorro's Property Veto

PA1412142891 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1226 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] The National Assembly approved President Violeta Chamorro's veto on the property ownership issue on 13 December. With this approval, the Center Bloc and the Sandinists dealt Assembly President Alfredo Cesar another blow. Center Bloc members Zacarias Hernandez, Alejandro Perez Arevalo, and Alvin Guthrie were not present when the vote was taken at 1800. This was interpreted as a sign of the group's weakness.

The only National Opposition Unity [UNO] deputies who backed President Chamorro with their votes were Ivan Salvador Madrid, Juan Gaitan, Alirio Cirias, Alejandro Solorzano, and Andres Robles. These deputies, along with the 39 Sandinist deputies, succeeded in preventing Cesar's group from approving Law 133. Only 89 of the National Assembly's 92 deputies were present during the voting process, which was held in secret at Eli Altamirano's request. This closed another chapter on the property issue after eight months of haggling, debates, negotiations, and pressures.

A few minutes after his defeat last night, Cesar said that in January the Assembly will amend what is left of Law 133, 21 articles of which were eliminated by the veto. Cesar told reporters that the amendments will be handled by mutual consent between UNO and Sandinist deputies to settle the property ownership issue, which he thinks is still uncertain. Sergio Ramirez, who heads the Sandinist deputies, said the opposite. He said that amending Law 133 is equivalent to resuscitating a dead body, something the Sandinist deputies will not permit.

Ramirez said that next year a new property ownership law must be drafted that is acceptable to all sectors of the nation. Ramirez added that attempts of UNO groups to expropriate the properties of the majority of the Nicaraguans who received houses and land tracts during the Sandinists' rule must be stopped. The Sandinist leader said that it is up to the Territorial Organization Office, which has already received approximately 800 requests to legalize the ownership of homes, to correct the abuses perpetrated through Law 85 and Law 86.

Recontras Threaten More Antigovernment Activities

PA1412141091 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1211 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Communique issued by Recontra leader "El Indomable," Jose Angel Moran Flores, in Jinotega on 13 December; read by Radio Sandino correspondent Francisco de Jesus Rodriguez—live or recorded]

[Text] The Commander 380 War Front hereby informs all drivers of public and private transportation and state-owned vehicles nationwide that if they dare to circulate, their vehicles will be burnt in repudiation of President Violeta Chamorro's refusal to hold a dialogue with this front, which is led by Commander El Indomable [Jose Angel Moran Flores]. The recontras also repudiate the burning and occupation of buildings, the burning of radio stations in the Managua Municipality, the defense minister's shameless arming of the recompas, and the defense minister's execution of military operations in coordination with the Armed Forces and the Defense Ministry's clandestine rank and file.

If the government does not decide to hold a dialogue, we will initiate increasingly repressive actions.

For just and lasting and peace, I am attentively,
El Indomable.

Recontra Leaders Threaten Armed Actions

PA1512004491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1207 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Communique issued by recontra leaders to President Violeta Chamorro read by Commander Bigote de Oro in Jinotega; date not given]

[Text] Dear President Violeta Chamorro: We address you with due respect to report that because Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, Dr. Alfredo Murray, and Carlos Hurtado Cabrera of the Government Ministry failed to comply with the 21 points of the agreements in the talks with Commander [words indistinct] of the rearmed guerrillas of the Democratic Force for National Salvation [words indistinct], Commander [words indistinct] has decided to withdraw from the talks.

We will wait for a positive reply from you sometime between 12 and 18 December. Otherwise, we reserve the right to conduct military actions throughout the country after the indicated date. Respectfully yours.

[Signed] Commander Dimas, chief of staff of the Democratic Force for National Salvation; Secretary General Bigote de Oro; Commander Tigrillo, G-1 of the staff; Commander Bolivar, G-2 of the staff; Campeon, G-3 of the staff; and [words indistinct] Commander Freddy.

Commission Deliberates on Presidential Travel

PA1412234791 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Dec 91

[Text] The special commission to reform the National Assembly's Constitution has made its final deliberations and passed the results to the Assembly for consideration. The two minority Sandinist National Liberation Front delegates did not participate in the deliberations.

Among the reforms is a restriction that the president may not leave the Republic on official business for a period in excess of 30 days without approval from the National Assembly.

The president will not require the Assembly's permission if he travels to another Central American country or Panama, but in both cases the vice president of the Republic must assume the Presidency's administrative functions.

The president will be able to leave the country for a period no longer than three months without the National Assembly's approval, as long as the Presidency is left in the hands of the vice president or another replacement. If the president's absence extends beyond three-months, regardless of the reason, the position would be lost.

Communique Denounces Crimes Against War Disabled

PA1312225091 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 9 Dec 91

[Communique issued by the Directorate of the Association of War Disabled of the Nicaraguan Resistance, ADGRN, in Managua on 9 December]

[Text] The Association of War Disabled of the Nicaraguan Resistance, ADGRN, reports to the Nicaraguan people and the international community:

Considering the many criminal actions against war disabled and demobilized of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], which has left more than 100 dead, the ADGRN denounces before the Nicaraguan people and the international community the atrocious crime perpetrated on 26 November 1991 against our fellow war disabled Mario Vivas Maldonado, alias Cecilio, who was president of the RN War Disabled in Matiguas, Matagalpa Department.

This crime was perpetrated by elements linked to the Sandinists called the recompas. This vicious and atrocious murder was conducted when our brother was

traveling in a vehicle owned by the OAS International Support and Verification Commission. His companions were savagely beaten.

Our brother, who is now a martyr, was kidnapped and murdered by those elements. All this occurred during a humanitarian action to locate war disabled needing medical assistance. Actions like these clearly show that these enemies of peace and democracy are trying to destabilize the process chosen by the people and that the RN supports.

We urge the government of the Republic to adopt measures to guarantee the life and safety of demobilized RN. Actions like this only bring mourning and pain to the great RN family and do not contribute to the achievement of peace and reconciliation.

We wish to clarify that our commitment to the people remains the same: Peace, reconciliation, democracy, and development. Provocations from these extremists will not change us. The blood shed by a brother who shared our struggle will not be in vain. This is another example of the sacrifice that RN members, who are dearly paying for the consolidation of democracy in Nicaragua, have made.

We call on the national conscience to join efforts to eliminate violence from our fatherland.

[Issued] Managua, 9 December 1991.
[Signed] ADGRN Directorate

Police Dismantle Recontra Internal Front

PA1312170591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] On 12 December police began to dismantle a recontra internal front being organized in Managua. Police apprehended several members, including the men involved in the bomb attack against the Carlos Fonseca mausoleum.

Government Ministry sources told the "Sucesos" radio program that the group identified itself as the Urban Resistance Front (Frente De La Resistencia Urbana). Military authorities have accused the group of planning the daring attack against the La Perfecta pasteurizing plant on 8 December.

The group is also accused of committing several robberies in Managua and other parts of the country in an attempt to obtain funds for their activities. This same group sent a letter to the media two weeks ago announcing plans to murder Sandinist National Liberation Front leaders, government officials, and Army Chief General Humberto Ortega.

Argentina

Menem Signs Nuclear Accord, Says Peace Priority

PY1312171691 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Presidents Fernando Collor de Mello and Carlos Menem have signed an agreement on nuclear control. Menem said in Vienna this afternoon that it is a top priority to promote international peace and security for Argentina. He added that in an interdependent world there is no room for isolationist attitudes.

President Menem made this comment after signing an Argentine- Brazilian agreement on nuclear safeguards with Brazilian counterpart Fernando Collor de Mello. The agreement will be supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is headquartered in Vienna.

The two presidents deemed the agreement historic, said they will do their best to make it a success, and announced that they decided to ratify the Tlalteloco Treaty with a few modifications.

Press Group Accuses Government of Discrimination

PY1512234891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Association of Press Publications (ADEPA) stated yesterday that the Buenos Aires daily PAGINA 12 suffers a "discriminatory treatment" from the government, which recently deprived it of all official advertisements. "The manipulation of official publicity to punish an opposition publication endangers public freedom and creates an inadmissible unacceptable] situation of inequality," an ADEPA communique says.

The organization expresses its confidence in "a quick government reaction based in the statements of President Carlos Menem, who made it clear that freedom of the press is for him 'a question of life or death,' adding that they remain seriously worried over these developments."

ADEPA made it clear that "this is not only the specific situation of a newspaper. There's a basic principle at stake and we must all reflect about this issue."

PAGINA 12 had suggested on Thursday that the withdrawal of state ads was related to the daily's investigation of the "Milkgate" scandal, in which presidential private secretary Miguel Angel Vicco and government adviser Carlos Spadone are allegedly involved.

Spain Orders Indictments of Yoma, Others

PY1512235291 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Dec 91 p 4

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon reportedly ordered the indictment of Amira Yoma, sister-in-law of President Carlos Menem, her ex-husband Ibrahim Al Ibrahim and Mario Caserta, all former government officials, for allegedly belonging to an international drug money-laundering organization.

According to a report published by the Buenos Aires daily PAGINA 12, the judge indicted them yesterday in Madrid after deciding there was "sufficient evidence" to prove that the three belonged to the gang.

Spanish judicial sources quoted by the daily said the prosecution could include a six-month preparatory phase followed by a three-month-long public trial.

The same sources added that the indictment is "practically a sentence, there's a 90 percent chance that the suspects will be found guilty; that's the tendency in the Spanish courts every time Garzon orders the indictment of someone accused of a crime."

The judge apparently based his decision on the testimony of Panamanian key witness Ignacio de la Cruz Iglesias, a former member of the illegal organization.

Iglesias had confirmed at the beginning of this year that Al Ibrahim helped Amira Yoma, Menem's former audiences secretary, to bring into Argentina two suitcases in August 1990 containing one million dollars from the United States. Al Ibrahim was a high- ranking customs official at the time.

The witness added that Caserta—currently a fugitive from justice in Argentina, Spain and the US—allegedly told Iglesias that the president's sister-in-law was one of the persons the organization used to carry drug money into Argentina and Uruguay.

PAGINA 12 added that evidence secretly provided by the Argentine courts taken to Madrid by two Spanish police officers two weeks ago may have triggered the judge's action.

Telefonica Sale Biggest Success in Privatization

PY1512234691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Dec 91 p 5

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The week closed yesterday on the government's biggest success so far on the privatizations front—not the block sale of a government company to an international consortium, but the incorporation of 70,000 common citizens as shareholders in Telefonica Argentina.

The sale of the government's remaining 30 percent stake in the phone company started on Monday and ended yesterday after a week which saw the largest stock issue in Argentina's history and the largest cash inflow for any privatization yet.

Estimates yesterday ranged at anything between 600 million and 1.2 billion dollars, although the final figure will not be known until next week. This compares with government estimates of 585 million dollars for the sale.

The amount is three times larger than total movements in investment funds in the last ten years.

The total amount will determine the price per share, originally set at 16 cents of a dollar, and which could now be anywhere between 20 and 24 cents per share.

Small investors were able to buy a minimum 1,000 dollars worth of shares and a maximum of 5,000 dollars. The minimum for major investors started at 5,000 dollars, with President Carlos Menem buying the first 5,000 dollars when the shares went on sale on Monday.

The banks which handled the sales were swamped with purchase requests from all over the country, and abroad, in what turned out to be another major break from Argentina's economic past, with investors running "to buy shares instead of dollars or to invest money in fixed-term deposits," as one banker put it.

EC Suspends Ban on Argentine Beef

PY1312172291 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Bans on Argentine beef have been suspended. The EC adopted this decision based on the unanimous verdict of its Veterinaries Permanent Committee.

According to a National Service for Animal Health Report, the EC decision is another achievement in the Argentine fight against hoof and mouth disease.

Brazil

Collor Returns From Europe, Discusses Charges

PY1512000691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor returned from Europe and talked with Health Minister Alceni Guerra. The minister promised to conclude the investigations in his portfolio by 20 December, adding that the charges that were pressed prevented large expenditures.

The president's departure from Europe was delayed because the temperature was 10 degrees below zero, and the plane's turbines were frozen. The closest assistants to the president, though, were expecting hot weather at Planalto Palace. In fact, all day Friday, 14 December, the president remained in silence, meditating. While on the plane, he did not talk to anyone: He continued with his meditation.

In Brasilia, on a rainy morning, Minister Guerra left the Health Ministry because the president's visit to the ministry was cancelled. The minister went to Planalto Palace to wait for the president.

The president arrived at Planalto Palace by helicopter directly from the Air Force base. At 1000, the president began a meeting with his main advisers, the ministers of the presidential household. He met with Minister Guerra at 1245. One hour later, the minister reported the results of the president's meditation.

[Begin recording] [Guerra] At no time did the president or I consider my staying at or replacement from the ministerial post. We did not refer to the subject, neither through insinuation nor in any other form. As minister I am obliged to conduct an in-depth investigation in all those matters.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, which government official who will respond to the Union's court of audits? What section of the government is working on the subject?

[Guerra] The Health Ministry is doing it. It is a dynamic process in which there are many consultations and which is very healthy, because it sometimes allows us to correct distortions that we might be committing. [end recording]

[Begin Collor recording] I would like to reiterate my confidence in the performance of Minister Alceni Guerra. The instructions that were given are being strictly complied with. [end recording]

The minister promised that the Health Ministry will release the results of all auditing procedures on 20 December. He admitted that the charges that were pressed prevented big spending. He said that even though the matter has been painful for him, the money would not have been recovered if no charges had been made.

After meeting with the minister, the president confirmed the granting of a bonus of 21,000 cruzeiros for workers earning up to 10 times the minimum salary. He also announced a 100 percent salary readjustment for all public servants as of January. The president said that the readjustment will be paid in three installments, in amounts to be released within the next few days.

Nuclear Ener[illegible] Accord Signed With IAEA

PY1412004491 [illegible]silia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 21[illegible]GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] In Vienna, Austria, President Fernando Collor and his Argentine counterpart Carlos Menem today attended a ceremony during which the two countries signed an agreement for the peaceful use of nuclear power. The ceremony was held at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] headquarters. The agreement was signed by Teresa Quintela and Jorge Alberto Taiana, the Brazilian and Argentine ambassadors to Austria, respectively, by IAEA Director General Hans Blix, and by (George Kohl), secretary general of the Brazilian-Argentine agency for nuclear material control.

Under the terms of the agreement, Brazilian and Argentine nuclear programs will be monitored by IAEA. The agreement guarantees that the two countries will have full rights over any technological secret, and that they will be able to continue to develop nuclear propulsion experiments.

In a speech he delivered after the signing of the agreement, President Fernando Collor said that the proposal of peace without weapons should receive universal support from all nations. He added that disarmament is a necessary first step, and that it will be minor and limited if it is not coupled with an effective effort to improve social justice.

[Begin Collor recording] Disarmament should obviously be implemented. It is the first step. But it should be followed by more efficient measures showing the commitment of hyper-industrialized countries—which have capital, technology, and commercial power—to building a stable world. The world will not be stable and there will be no peace while social inequalities persist. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek has said that the agreement destroyed all suspicions that still existed on the peaceful nature of the two countries' nuclear programs.

President Collor and his entourage have already left for Frankfurt, from where they will depart for Brazil this evening.

Economy Minister Warns About Difficulties Ahead

PY1612015091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Dec 91 p 28

[Text] Brasilia—On 10 December, when opening a meeting with his entire team to review the economy and to unify the discourse of his assistants, Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira said: "We must, at all cost, avoid euphoria because there still are many difficulties ahead of us."

Content with what he describes as positive advancement during the past few weeks, such as the reversal of the inflationary projections and the upcoming agreement with foreign creditors, Marques Moreira, however, believes the government must not transmit to society a false feeling that the country already is overcoming the crisis.

The economy minister warned: "The Brazilian society is very cyclothymic. A month ago, there was a general feeling that the world was ending, that hyperinflation was inescapable. Now we cannot run the risk of falling into the opposite extreme, euphoria."

During the three-hour meeting, from 1830 to 2130, Marques Moreira, his secretaries, and the entire Central Bank board of directors defined the strategy of taking advantage of the positive data reported in the past few weeks in order to expedite and enhance the economic reforms. Within this context, the minister asked his assistants to conduct complementary studies in order to expedite the privatization process and the opening of the economy to foreign interests and deregulation. Nevertheless, nothing will be done by surprise and beyond the lines that already have been defined.

To spread the idea that the Brazilian economy already is definitely entering the right path would be running a serious risk of shaking credibility, which, according to Marques Moreira, was hardly earned.

According to the economic team's assessment, the inflation rate's drop still cannot be described as a definitive trend. Marques Moreira and his team believe that society already has convinced itself that there are no economic shocks and the orthodox policy that has been implemented since May is beginning to yield results.

Economy Minister Predicts Economic Growth in '92

PY1412002891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira said today in Sao Paulo that 1992 will be a transition year for the Brazilian economy.

Moreira lectured at a symposium entitled the Challenge of the Opening of the Economy. In his lecture, the minister said that the inflation rate is going down thanks to a consistent monetary and fiscal policy. He added that Brazil will resume growth, but in a healthy way, and that 1992 will be a transition year.

[Begin recording] It will be a difficult year, a year in which it will be necessary to work hard and perhaps make some sacrifices. Yet it will be a transition year, a transition between decades of exaggerated inflation, between a full decade of stagnation and a period in which conditions will be appropriate for resuming growth. Figures are clear. The inflation rate is already showing clear signs of decrease, foreign resources are being received, and performance in the export area is extremely dynamic. Consequently, conditions are ripe for overcoming the crisis at a structural level and with more lasting results. [end recording]

The minister added that the government expects the first indications of economic reactivation to appear in the second half of 1992.

Congressmen Approve Bill Doubling Their Salaries

PY1512220691 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 91 p 1

[Summary] Federal deputies yesterday approved a bill doubling their salaries and senators' salaries. Thus, congressmen's salaries have been increased from 2.6 million to 5.2 million cruzeiros.

Chile

Yeltsin Adviser Remarks on Gorbachev, Honecker

PY1312181091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Sergey Stankevich, chief of the Moscow government [title as heard] and an adviser to the president of

Russia, has said that the Soviet Union will no longer exist, although states do not die overnight.

Stankevich is visiting Chile, commissioned by Boris Yeltsin, with the goal of achieving economic cooperation agreements. He and Santiago Mayor Jaime Ravinet held a news conference at noon.

Stankevich said the Soviet Union will no longer exist and that President Gorbachev must resign.

Stankevich said that, according to information available to him, a high-ranking post in the new community formed by Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine reportedly has been offered to the creator of perestroyka.

[Begin recording of Stankevich interpreter] It would be good for him, and this role would facilitate the orderly transition to the new realities. It would be very regrettable, at least for me, if he rejects this role.

[Unidentified reporter] Has this role been offered to him already?

[Stankevich interpreter] I don't know exactly in which way they have made this proposal, but I am sure that it has been made. [end recording]

Yeltsin's adviser, through an interpreter, said that the transition is difficult and that several central organizations will continue to exist.

Stankevich also reported that Erich Honecker's situation will be clarified within the next few hours. He added that Yeltsin already had seen a fax that he, along with the president of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, sent from Valparaiso, proposing a tripartite agreement between Chile, Russia, and Germany to resolve this situation by law or in a humanitarian manner.

RSFSR Asked To Allow Honecker To Seek Asylum

PY1412174691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Report by Sandra Pizarro at La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has reported that the Chilean Government is requesting that the RSFSR allow former East German leader Erich Honecker to seek asylum in a third country, which can be North Korea.

[Begin recording] In our case, we are making a huge effort. Through talks held in Santiago and Moscow, acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas in Santiago and the Chilean charge d'affairs in Moscow are seeking a diplomatic solution to the problem, which we believe to be the best solution to this type of problem.

Right now, we are asking RSFSR officials to allow Mr. Honecker to leave for a third country. The Chilean Government has made the appropriate request in this regard.

The situation is stable. I have spoken to Edmundo Vargas, who is a very correct fellow, and have been told that Honecker still is a guest at the Chilean Embassy in Moscow. Meanwhile, further contact with RSFSR officials is being sought. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Regarding the defense minister's decision to forbid Army weapons exports, Krauss said this step was taken to prevent weapons from leaving Chile earmarked for one country and ending up in another one. [passage omitted]

Germany Insists Honecker Must Leave Embassy

PY1312175891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Relay by Daniela Araneda at La Moneda Palace]

[Text] German Ambassador to Chile Wiegand Pabsch said to acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas that former GDR leader Erich Honecker must leave the Chilean Embassy, where he is currently staying as a guest. Pabsch said Honecker must leave because the deadline for expulsion given to him by RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin expires today.

This is the second time in less than 24 hours that Ambassador Pabsch has visited the Chilean Foreign Ministry with the purpose of reiterating the German position regarding Honecker's case.

Yesterday, Ambassador Pabsch said he would immediately request Honecker's extradition if he came to Chile. The German ambassador also said that he is surprised and does not understand the climate of sympathy that Honecker has generated in Chile. Pabsch noted that there is a lot of talk about the fact that families should be able to spend Christmas together and that this is one of the arguments used to request that Honecker be allowed into Chile. Pabsch said however, that because of Honecker, for years many families were unable to spend their holidays together due to the restrictions against leaving the country imposed on the people who lived in the GDR.

Pabsch also recalled that Honecker was responsible for the murder of more than 200 people who tried to cross the Iron Curtain. Therefore, he said he did not understand the climate of sympathy he has awakened because all Chileans are well aware of what the violation of human rights means. Honecker, he added, is responsible for many cases of human rights violations.

Interior Minister Cited on Honecker 'Solution'

LD1512193791 Berlin Deutschlandsender-Kultur Network in German 1700 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] The Chilean Government will not comply with the formal request by the Federal Government for the extradition of the former GDR head of state Erich Honecker. According to [Chilean] Interior Minister Krauss, it is hoped, on the other hand, that a joint

solution can be reached bringing in a third country. Chile will not grant asylum to Honecker but will offer him protection until a diplomatic solution is found, Krauss said. In the meantime it has been reported from Moscow that a North Korean diplomat visited the Chilean Embassy this afternoon. It is generally assumed that he handed over a letter to the Chilean authorities. North Korea had earlier expressed willingness to take in Honecker.

Honecker Said Unsafe in Chile, Consider Mexico

PY1612124691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] Erich Honecker is still lodged at the Chilean diplomatic mission in Moscow as a guest, without receiving a positive response to his petition to enter our country.

Clodomiro Almeyda, the Chilean ambassador to the Soviet Union, pointed out that the best solution for Honecker will be to travel to Mexico, because the alternative of going to Korea is not good and in Chile he would be in danger.

Vargas Remarks on Yugoslav Arms Sales, Honecker

PY1612013491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas stated that Chile has not violated the arms embargo against Yugoslavia. He said that our country was not mentioned at today's meeting of the UN Security Council at which the Yugoslav issue was discussed.

Vargas made an exclusive statement to this newscast shortly before departing for Rio de Janeiro, where he will participate in the installing of the arbitration court that will negotiate the border dispute between Chile and Argentina in the Laguna del Desierto region. The topic of discussion, however, was not the border issue but the UN Security Council meeting during which the Yugoslav situation was discussed.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] The UN Security Council met this morning and agreed on a resolution. The resolution did not mention Chile directly nor was Chile's name mentioned at the meeting.

[Reporter Cristobal Valenzuela] The UN resolution states that countries must report arms sales to Yugoslavia. Will Chile do so?

[Vargas] Chile has always complied with UN Security Council resolutions.

[Valenzuela] Do you believe that by shipping these arms to Yugoslavia, Chile has violated the arms embargo against Yugoslavia?

[Vargas] As you well know, the arms were not consigned to the area of conflict. We have complied with the UN resolution. The Chilean defense minister has investigated the shipment of arms and has reported the findings in full.

[Valenzuela] You mean to say that if it is proven that the Chilean Government did not intend to...

[Vargas, interrupting] Of course, of course. [end recording]

Concerning the complex diplomatic situation created by Erich Honecker's presence in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow, Vargas said that any new developments could be expected only after the expiration of the deadline that Russia has given to Honecker to leave the country. He also talked about the report received from Bonn to the effect that Russian Government officials have promised the German Government not to let Honecker leave for a third country like Chile has proposed.

[Begin Vargas recording] I have read this report just as you have. We hope that it will not come true and that Mr. Honecker will be allowed to leave for North Korea, taking advantage of this country's offer to take care of his health problems.

[Valenzuela] Foreign Minister, for how long can Mr. Honecker stay at the Chilean Embassy before it harms our relations with Germany?

[Vargas] I hope that this sensitive issue can be resolved through diplomatic negotiations based on respect for the many principles involved in these matters. [end recording]

Vargas said that he will stay in Rio de Janeiro, probably until the next weekend, depending on the Honecker affair developments. He added that during his absence, Interior Minister Enrique Krauss will replace him. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Suspends All Arms Shipments

PY1412022291 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] The Military Ordnance and Engineering Command, CIMI, of the Chilean Army will carry out an investigation of the unauthorized arms shipment from Chile to Croatia.

This information was provided by Defense Minister Patricio Rojas this afternoon. Minister Rojas said that the unauthorized shipment discovered in Hungary was made in the Chilean custom house on 30 November by the custom house agent of Famae [Army Ordnance], who acted as a special agent and who is also under investigation. Rojas said that his ministry authorized an arms shipment for Sri Lanka which was never made. He added, however, that on 30 November an arms shipment was made which according to reports is similar to the one for Sri Lanka ordered by (Glinter Lanhouser). He said that the shipment was processed by Famae for Sri Lanka.

Minister Rojas referred this afternoon to the measures adopted by his ministry in the face of this situation to clarify what happened.

[Begin Rojas recording] The export of all materiel to any country has been suspended. The procedures for analysis, verification, and recommendation previous to the ministerial decision in accordance with the arms control law to export materiel will be reviewed and revised. This information has been conveyed to the appropriate institutional officials. In the face of this situation CIMI officials will carry out an investigation of the actions and activities of this organization. The investigation must individualize the administrative responsibilities and must file the appropriate accusations in accordance with the law to find the people, whether civilian or military, who are responsible for this event. [end recording]

Minister Rojas added that under no circumstances will the Chilean Government authorize the export of arms to Yugoslavia and that it has fully respected the UN Security Council resolution which ordered an arms embargo on that country. Rojas also indicated that the arms shipment from Chile to Hungary which has been clearly established is until proven otherwise an unauthorized arms shipment.

Documents of Arms Seized in Hungary 'In Order'

PY1312201491 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Report by Carlos Alzamora]

[Text] Army General Eterio Pavez, the director of the General Directorate for National Mobilization, said that documents on the sale of an arms shipment dispatched to Sri Lanka and seized in Hungary were absolutely in order. Evidence of this is that the defense minister issued a resolution, approving the documents, Gen. Pavez added at the end of a National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies (ANEPE) graduation ceremony at the Diego Portales building.

Gen. Pavez said that, according to rules and regulations, the duty of the General Directorate for National Mobilization is to review the documents, thus allowing the government to issue the appropriate resolution.

Asked about the company that sold the arms, Gen. Pavez responded that this is not for the General Directorate for National Mobilization to say, but is exclusively handled by Famae [Army Ordnance].

He was asked if Famae made the sale.

I do not know if Famae shipped the arms, Pavez replied.

Afterwards, asked if the General Directorate for National Mobilization controls the sales, Pavez said: I just issue the authorization—just the authorization—through documents. Nothing more. All the documents are in order. And evidence for this is that the minister signed the appropriate resolution, Pavez added.

The general confirmed that the arms shipment was bound for Sri Lanka and pointed said the defense minister is the one who knows more about this issue.

Illegal Arms Trafficking to SFRY Called 'Crime'

PY1512023291 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Dec 91

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa has said that sending a Chilean arms shipment to Yugoslavia is a crime that involves fraud and deception against Chilean authorities.

[Begin recording] We are conducting the appropriate investigations. Part of this process has been a fraud, and the authorities have been deceived. The law has been violated. Obviously, the possible administrative involvement of officials of public institutions in this serious situation is also being investigated. The position of the country has been jeopardized by persons who have deceived the authorities and who have committed, to say the least, a crime of fraud. [end recording]

Even though the consignment documents for the 11 ton shipment state that it is the first shipment, we have learned that it could be the third one. Everything indicates that it is a complex illegal arms trafficking operation in which persons linked with military institutions could be involved.

Venezuela

Hungarian President Arrives 12 Dec, Meets Perez

LD1412061791 Budapest MTI in English 1954 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Caracas, December 13 (MTI)—Presidents Arpad Goncz of Hungary and Carlos Andres Perez Rodriguez of Venezuela are to start talks in Caracas on Friday.

Goncz arrived in Venezuela, the last stage of his tour in Latin America, on Thursday evening. At the airport, he was received by the Venezuelan president. This is the first visit to Venezuela of a Hungarian head of state.

On Friday, Goncz is scheduled to meet senior congress officials, and visit the headquarters of the Latin American Economc System (SELA).

Signs Accord, Departs

PA1512041791 Paris AFP in Spanish 0201 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Caracas, 14 Dec (AFP)—Hungarian President Arpad Goncz returned to his country on 14 December after a three-day visit to Venezuela. The visit ended with the signing of a joint statement by Goncz and his Venezuelan counterpart, Carlos Andres Perez.

Goncz and Perez agreed to expand and strengthen "the ties of friendship and cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural fields" during their bilateral talks.

They also agreed to promote actions of mutual cooperation in areas of common interest and to increase trade relations. For this purpose they agreed to hold a bilateral meeting between private businessmen and government representatives of both countries.

Goncz and Perez agreed to make progress in the negotiations to sign a bilateral agreement to protect investments and avoid double taxation.

In the field of international issues, they reiterated their support for international mechanisms "in favor of the strict observation of human rights."

They praised the role played by the United Nations in view of the challenges posed by the new world order. They agreed that, as members of the security council, Hungary and Venezuela must conduct permanent consultations.

They also called for the strengthening of mechanisms for regional economic integration to guarantee the overall growth of developing countries.

Perez confirmed his support for the democratization process in Hungary within the framework of the spectacular collapse of the socialist world. Goncz said the Venezuelan Government and people are making progress in developing and modernizing their society.

On 13 December, Perez said Goncz' visit was intended to "expand Venezuela's relations with Central Europe. We have great trade opportunities in the sale of iron and steel products, in the exchange of technology, and in expanding markets between the Andean Pact and the trilateral market made up of Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia."

On 14 December, Goncz met with Hungarian immigrants in Venezuela.

Perez bid Goncz farewell at the Maiquetia International Airport on the Caribbean coast near Caracas, official sources told AFP.

President Comments on Relations With Colombia

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[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez conveyed his Christmas and New Year's greetings to officers, noncommissioned officers, professional soldiers, and troops stationed in garrisons in Tachira State. President Perez emphasized the importance of maintaining military equipment.

[Begin Perez recording] Today you have equipment and weapons that meet the country's requirements. The staff will no longer have to worry or spend their time preparing new acquisitions. Now the task will be to maintain what we have and to concentrate on the Armed Forces' administration and supply problems so our soldiers and officers will have the minimal comforts required to perform the difficult and unselfish duties imposed upon them.

The Armed Forces' civic action programs will be intensified so civilians will take a closer look, with more interest every day, at the significance of our country's Armed Forces.

As we gain experience, plans are being improved to guarantee the tranquillity and security of our fellow countrymen in border areas; particularly while neighboring Colombia suffers from serious armed insurgencies and violence that hurts national interests. Fortunately relations between the two countries are improving noticeably. The region's problems, on both sides of the border, are being continually and properly studied by the binational commission on borders. New plans are constantly being initiated to improve the welfare of the region's inhabitants and solve the problems that are creating insecurity.

The Armed Forces, through task forces, are also doing their part to guarantee the tranquillity of those who live in the area that borders Colombia.

Both countries' Armed Forces are working on increasing understanding and communication every day to protect us from the misfortunes that currently affect us. [end recording]